THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL LGBTQ+ LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

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MIDLANDS ZONE

AUGUST 2019 ISSUE 268

GET SET FOR DERBY PRIDE & LEICESTER PRIDE

Sir Ian McKellen backs LEICESTER GAY playwright appeal

+ GAY SCENE IN PICTURES + WHAT'S ON

ROBBIE LEWIS
BRUM'S NIGHTINGALE DJ

SAVE BIRMINGHAM GAY VILLAGE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

LGBT COMMUNITY BEFORE GREED

We appeal to those who could hold the key to safeguard the gay village

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41 NEW SCENE GUIDE!

West Mids TOP for LGBT jobs

A recent survey has found that when it comes to job vacancies, the West Midlands is the sixth most LGBTQ+ inclusive region in the UK.

Job-search company Azunda says that although discrimination against LGBTQ+ people remains a problem, there has been an increase across the country in the number of employers actively seeking or supporting employees from the community.

LGBTs on the lookout for jobs can visit proudemployers.org.uk - a jobsite which caters exclusively for LGBT people and their allies. Part of Stonewall, the company aims to help candidates find roles with organisations that are committed to true diversity and inclusion for their employees.

RuPaul's Drag Race stint for Cheryl & Twiggy

Pop star Cheryl and 1960s icon Twiggy have been named as Ru Paul's Drag Race judges.

The duo will join Maisie Williams, Geri Horner, Jade Thirlwall, Michaela Coel and Andrew Garfield in the guest-judge role, with Graham Norton and Alan Carr appearing on the show as rotating resident judges.

Commenting on the news, Cheryl said: "I'm a huge fan of Drag Race. I've always admired the work and dedication that goes into drag and have learned over the years that it's an art form. It's not only fun and glamorous but equally as skillful and admirable. I find it incredibly inspiring. I just love the makeup, creativity and drama. I'm honoured to be a guest judge!"

Twiggy - who is also known nowadays, since being appointed a Dame, as Dame Lesley Lawson - is looking forward to contributing to the show too: "You see the most gorgeous women in the most glamorous outfits. I love the creativity of the clothes and the makeup. I've been to a few drag shows and they're brilliant fun."

RuPaul's Drag Race UK will be screened on BBC Three in the autumn.

GAY ICON TO HEADLINE BIRMINGHAM'S SHOUT FESTIVAL

SHOUT Festival of Queer Arts & Culture has announced that cult icon John Waters will headline this year's event, in partnership with Birmingham Hippodrome.

Described as 'the pope of trash', John has written and directed 16 movies across his 50-year career. He's best known for his seminal counter-cultural comedies, which celebrate deviance and alternative lifestyles. These include Hairspray, Pink Flamingos and Polyester.

John has also had his photography shown in galleries across the world and is the author of nine books, including his new title, Mr Know-It-All, The Tarnished Wisdom Of A Filth Elder, which will be published in the UK in September.

Combining highlights of his stand-out career with 'delightfully devious anecdotes, comical career observations and hilarious audience interaction', John's SHOUT Festival Hippodrome show promises to be a night of top-quality entertainment.

John Waters: This Filthy World will show at Birmingham Hippodrome on Wednesday 13 November.

Have ya heard?

JAMIE GETS READY TO SLAY IN THE MIDLANDS

Smash-hit musical Everybody's Talking About Jamie is heading for the Midlands next year on its first ever UK tour - with Shane Richie and Layton Williams reprising the roles they played in the West End version.

Jamie New is 16, lives on a council estate in Sheffield, doesn't quite fit in and is terrified about the future. Supported by his mum and surrounded by his friends, he overcomes prejudice, beats the bullies and steps out of the darkness and into the spotlight...

With an original score of catchy pop tunes by lead singer-songwriter of The Feeling, Dan Gillespie Sells, and writer Tom MacRae (Doctor Who), the show visits the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, from 16 to 21 March and Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from 23 to 27 June 2020.

BIRMINGHAM'S EDEN BAR GETS ROBBED!

Popular Birmingham Gay Village venue Eden Bar was broken into in the early hours of Tuesday 9 July.

The venue's co-owner, Garry Prentice, commented: "The thieves caused hundreds of pounds-worth of damage and stole hundreds of pounds-worth of goods."

CCTV image of the suspect outside Eden

Cannock's Candi Caines bids farewell – and has closed down

Cannock's only LGBT entertainment venue has closed down.

Candi Caine's cabaret bar, situated in the town's Church Street, shut its doors to the public for the last time on 29 June.

Owner Andy James (Candi Caine) recently took to his personal Facebook account to thank his staff, who'd been with him 'since the start'. He wrote: "I have met some amazing people and made some lifelong friends along the way.

Although the closure of Candi Caines marks the end of an era, it's not the end for Candi herself, who signed off by saying, 'You haven't seen the last of me!' Watch this space...

EXCLUSIVE

SHOCK REVELATION AS...

3 MORE BRUM GAY VENUES TO CLOSE!

Following recent concerns about the future of LGBT venues The Nightingale Club and Eden Bar, we can exclusively reveal that three other Birmingham gay venues are set to be demolished in the next 18 months.

Over the next couple of years, property developers are set to take over and build on a large area of land that includes the site of the current Unit 2 sauna. Meanwhile, the area across the road on Lower Essex Street, where Boltz is situated, down to Sherlock Street, where The Core and Cobs are, and through to Hurst Street, where the open-air car park currently operates, is set to be demolished to make way for new property development in three or four years' time.

SAVE BIRMINGHAM GAY VILLAGE CAMPAIGN

UNIT 2

TO CLOSE 30 NOV 2019

THE CORE

TO CLOSE BY DEC 2020

BOLTZ

TO CLOSE BY MARCH 2021

Speaking exclusively to Midlands Zone, Boltz bar owner Liam Wolohan said: "We were only offered an additional three-year lease back in March last year, which expires in March 2021, and clearly we're not going to have it renewed after that.

"We're hoping that a possible alternative venue within Birmingham Gay Village will come up before our lease expires, in order for us to continue to trade in a new location. We are hoping to work with the Gooch Estate to that end."

One possible venue could have been the former Wellington site, which closed down earlier this year. However, the landowner's agents, Pennycuick Collins, have already agreed terms with another operator.

Owner of The Core, Michael Edge, was unavailable for comment on the closure of his venue, but a spokesperson confirmed that their lease expires in December 2020.

Meanwhile, owner of Unit 2 Sauna, Trevor Ford confirmed that the venue will close by 30 November this year.

A packed meeting to support Eden Bar in June

SUPPORT BUILDS TO SAVE EDEN BAR

With the breaking news that gay venues Unit 2, Boltz and The Core are all set to close down and be demolished within the next 18 months, the Birmingham LGBT community is redoubling its efforts to safeguard the future of Eden Bar.

A packed open meeting was held at Eden at the end of June. Customers confronted officials from Birmingham City Council about the threat posed to the venue by proposed Rea Valley Urban Quarter development.

The Birmingham City Council representatives appeared fully supportive of both Eden Bar and the wider Birmingham Gay Village.

A further meeting, organised by new campaigning group The Friends of Eden Bar, takes place at the venue on Sunday 4 August at 1pm.

The group, which has been set up by loyal customers Kristian Paul and Rob Draper and already boasts over 400 members, has confirmed that the Leader of Birmingham City Council, Ian Ward, will be in attendance at the meeting.

Garry and Cal outside Eden Bar

Rob Draper

Kristian Paul

The purpose of the get-together is to discuss ways in which the LGBT community can protect LGBT+ spaces in Birmingham. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Leader of Birmingham City Council, Ian Ward

MEETING: Sun 4 Aug at Eden Bar

SAVE BIRMINGHAM GAY VILLAGE CAMPAIGN

BIRMINGHAM GAY VILLAGE MAP

YELLOW AREAS INDICATED ON THE MAP ARE THE LAND THAT ARE SET TO BE REDEVELOPED AND THE ESTIMATE TIME SCALES

AUGUST 2019 – THIS MONTH

The warehouses situated opposite The Village Inn are set to be demolished during August 2019, in order to make way for the outside car park to be extended - and which is expected to be in use until the new property developers start to build on the land that will take in car park, The Core, Cobs Bar, and Boltz Club in 3 or 4 years time.

Southside Apartments
Built in 2005
Bromsgrove St
The Loft
Apartment planning approved
Apartment planning approved
Lower Essex St
Nightingale
New Proposed Apartments still pending a decision by Birmingham City Council
Kent St
Unit 2 Sauna to close in Nov 2019
New development set to be submitted soon and built on over the next couple of years
Gooch St

Lattitude Apartments
Built in 2009
Claybrook St
New Timber Yard Apartments currently under construction
Pershore St
Skinner Ln
Hurst St
Kent St
Village Inn
This land could be redevelopment in around 15 years time
Not set to be redeveloped for 10-20 years
The Fox
Hurst St
Rea Valley Urban Quarter proposed development could start as early as 4 years time.
New development set to be submitted and built on in around 3 or 4 years time
Lower Essex St
Sherlock St
Eden only have less than 4 year lease left
Hurst St
The Core to close in Dec 2020
Boltz Club to close in Mar 2021
Rea Valley Urban Quarter proposed development

SAVE BIRMINGHAM GAY VILLAGE CAMPAIGN

LANDOWNERS OF THE GAY VILLAGE COULD HOLD THE KEY TO THE FUTURE!

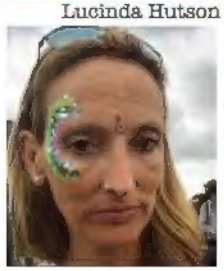
We talk exclusively to Charles Gillett, who represents the Gooch Estate - which owns most of the land Birmingham Gay Village venues are situated on. Could the Gooch Estate therefore hold the key to ensuring the Gay Village continues to thrive?

Charles Gillett

The Gooch Estate is owned by Benacre Properties Company, which has the following three directors:

Lady Susan Gooch

Lucinda Hutson



Victoria Vere Nicoll

What do you think about the proposed Rea Valley Urban Quarter development, which would include some of the land the Gooch Estate owns?

Birmingham City Council have produced a document with blobs on it where they think there should be developments within the Rea Valley Urban Quarter, but Birmingham City Council haven't consulted the Gooch Estate at all as yet. They seem quite happy to do that, and have done so with sites within the boundary of the Smithfield Markets area as well [Gooch Estate used to own this - it was compulsory purchased in 1974].

It's a supplementary planning document that they're producing, and the idea is that they can have some control and be a bit prescriptive about future developments within that area. There's absolutely nothing concrete at the moment. It's entirely *their* plan, and the Gooch
Estate have got no plans with regard to Eden Bar or the other land in that block, and are unlikely to have any plans for some time.

Eden Bar's lease ends in May 2023. This is causing some anxiety within the LGBT community, as we gather that you're not likely to renew their lease?

The normal practice would be to deal with it at the end of the lease and not four years before the end of the lease. So that's what will happen in the last 12 months of the term.

They are protected tenants, as far as I know. They have security and the right to a new lease. There are some grounds upon which the landlord cannot give them a new lease subject to the court agreeing, and one of those is because they've got an intention to redevelop.

There are currently no plans. No discussions. No nothing. What would be normal is that as we get near to the last 12 months of the term - May 2022 - then we'd start talking to them.

If the Gooch Estate is not intending to redevelop for some years, could you not negotiate an extended lease now?

It's feasible. I'll have a conversation with them again, but I suspect the answer will be the response that I've given you, and that it will be dealt with at the appropriate time.

Eden Bar is the exception to the rule on the Gooch Estate. Nearly all lettings which aren't on these long leases of the ground are usually on short term - three or five years with no security for the tenant. Eden Bar was let on a 21-year lease, and so it is quite exceptional in that respect.

At the time, the Gooch Estate backed the tenants, Cal & Garry, to refurbish the property and to run a good business.

So would Eden Bar be offered another 21-year lease?

No. Not necessarily. When they get into the last 12 months of the term, they can apply to court for a new lease, and they can give a lease up to 14 years.

When the Rea Valley Urban Quarter area is developed, there's no reason why Eden Bar couldn't stay there and form part of the new development effectively. In some respect, it's happened, I suppose, with Missing Bar. That pub was retained, and I would have thought that Eden Bar would have been similar.

That's one issue, and I guess the other is having residential property around them and what impact that has on how they operate their business at the moment.

On what basis could Eden Bar be refused a new lease?

There are various specific grounds, such as they haven't paid their rent and are in persistent rent arrears, or they haven't kept the property in repair or haven't complied with other convenance within the lease Another reason could be that the landlord wants to occupy the property themselves or wants to redevelop it. But I think they're good tenants and the Gooch Estate remote from Birmingham wouldn't want to occupy it themselves. The only issue would be development.

Irrespective of that, I don't think the Gooch Estate would do anything at the moment - because they don't have to, amongst other things - other than sit and wait to get closer to the lease expiry date

I understand Unit 2 haven't been offered an additional lease. Is that the Gooch Estate as well?

The freehold is, but there's an intermediate leaseholder Plans for the Unit 2 site 'is' currently being looked at and 'is' likely to be more imminent than the area where Eden Bar is.

That's the majority of the block, but it doesn't go all of the way to Sherlock Street.

And what about the leases at The Core and Boltz Club not being renewed?

What I'd say is you should talk to them about their situation and any discussions we may be having with them.

Is there anywhere within the Gay Village that future displaced venues could relocate to?

There's massive potential on that corner by The Village Inn, I would have thought. If you take away the warehouse at the back of the Village Inn and you transform the way that the Jubilee Centre responds to its surroundings, it could be a fantastic opportunity within the Gay Village to provide space for whatever businesses are looking for something. At the moment it's closed off and doesn't do anything, but it could relate to the area and the street and provide a good facility for something.

Is the Gooch Estate looking at redeveloping the land from the Jubilee Centre up to The Village Inn anytime soon?

The Jubilee Centre is let, and is let for a good while yet, and so is the Village Inn, so not anytime soon.

And the land that takes in the Gallan car park opposite the Village Inn, and warehouses - as well as Cobs, Boltz, The Core and The Fox - when do you envisage that block being redeveloped?

It's likely to be looked at in two chunks The Fox is on a ground lease to Punch, and that has quite a few years left on it, as has the probation service, so there's nothing likely to happen on the top end maybe for 15 years or so.

Whereas the bottom end, where the open car park is, along with The Core, Boltz, Cobs Bar and a couple of other businesses, would be within the next three to four years.

So it looks like the Gooch Estate holds the key, more than anyone else really, to the survival of Birmingham's Gay Village?

I think the developers who are developing the land hold the key more so than the Gooch Estate. One thing that the Gooch Estate has done is insisted that with all schemes there are commercial premises at ground level. That's what you will have seen with schemes that have been built so far, with Latitude, I Land & Southside, and what's currently going up with Timber Yard.

Are the commercial premises suitable for gay bars and clubs?

I don't see why not. There's a planning application pending at the moment opposite the Nightingale which has a bar at ground level for lease.

Does the Gooch Estate put on any restrictions in their leases to developers?

All sites are sold on long leases, so there's an agreement subject to planning permission - and then, when planning permission is gained, the developer draws down a lease. So there is a document that governs what can and can't be done. But they're ground leases, so effectively the Gooch Estate continues to own the land but the developer is responsible for the building and leasing or selling the building and so on... The actual ground is retained by the Gooch Estate in that sense

OPEN LETTER TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE GOOCH ESTATE

Dear Lady Gooch, Lucinda Hutson and Victoria Vere Nicoll,

As the directors of Benacre Properties Company - the holding company that operate the Gooch Estate - I am writing to you to appeal for your support in helping to safeguard the vital Birmingham Gay Village

You may or may not be fully aware that most of the LGBT venues within the Southside area are situated on land and in properties you own as the Gooch Estate.

Currently there are a number of planning applications and drafts in circulation which show a number of these LGBT venues under threat. There are also indications of numerous other planning applications that are set to be submitted in future years that could wipe out the Birmingham Gay Village as we know it.

As the directors of the Gooch Estate, we believe that you hold the key to the continued success and stability of the Birmingham Gay Village - or the failure of it, as LGBT venues are refused lease renewals in favour of large property developers' plans.

The most urgent issue concerns one of the Gay Village properties on your land, Eden Bar, which could be surrounded by a possible future development of apartments Eden's plight and the uncertainty surrounding the venue continuing has received widespread media coverage recently.

The venue's lease expires on Sunday 28 May 2023 - in less than four years' time. In order to safeguard Eden - one of the Gay Village's most popular venues - we would ask that you urgently consider offering the bar owners, Garry and Cal, a new long extended lease.

By doing this, you will not only put the LGBT community's mind at rest by safeguarding Eden Bar, you will also give Garry and Cal the green light to further invest in the venue.

We believe that the vast majority of the LGBT community are sympathetic to the redevelopment of the area generally and would be supportive of creative new developments - but not at the expense of wiping out Birmingham's Gay Village, which provides essential support, especially to young LGBT people. We hope you agree how vital this gay quarter is, and trust you will be equally supportive in helping to safeguard it.

Birmingham City Council are very supportive of the Gay Village and are well aware of its contribution to the city, greatly enhancing Birmingham's cultural offer and playing an important part in ensuring that the city is viewed as a welcoming, modern and diverse visitor destination. However, they also realise that they have limited powers to stop applications from property developers which could be to the detriment of the Gay Village venues.

Alongside Eden Bar, other Gay Village properties on your land include Boltz venue, The Core and Unit 2 Health Sauna - all of which are set to be demolished in the next couple of years to make way for new developments. Whilst we accept in these cases that the developments may well constitute progress - as part of the regeneration of the area - we would hope that the Gooch Estate would give priority to those venues wishing to relocate elsewhere within the Gay Village area, by urgently offering alternative suitable sites.

Indeed, the vast majority of the Gay Village venues are situated on the Gooch Estate's land, and so we really do believe the key to its future lands heavily in your hands

While I very much understand the benefits to Birmingham of having a thriving property industry as the city seeks to rebrand itself, I also feel duty-bound to highlight the benefits which a thriving Gay Village provides for the city

With all of this in mind, I am writing to you to respectfully ask, as the directors of Benacre Properties Limited, that you or your representatives enter into an open dialogue with the LGBT community, and that we work together in harmony to look at safeguarding Birmingham's Gay Village and the wellbeing of the community that it serves, providing a safe space where they can feel relaxed and comfortable

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Martin Monahan
Editor in Chief, Midlands Zone Magazine

THE GOOCH ESTATE OWN MOST OF THE LAND IN BIRMINGHAM'S GAY VILLAGE INCLUDING THESE VENUES:

SAVE BIRMINGHAM GAY VILLAGE CAMPAIGN

The Nightingale Club

The Village Inn

Eden Bar

Unit 2 Sauna

The Fox

Amusement 13

Boltz

The Loft

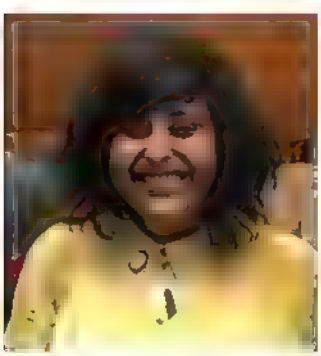
The Core

UNITED WE

LGBT LESSONS MUST CONTINUE!

The ongoing row over the teaching of equalities lessons which contain information about LGBT relationships shows no sign of abating. The LGBT community, our allies and the Government all believe that the lessons *must* continue – and there are plenty of voices within the Muslim community who are singing from exactly the same hymn sheet...

"We as Muslim women need to find a way to detach ourselves from this continuous male choke-hold on a narrative that sees men representing the British Muslim experience, when in fact they represent no one but themselves"



No individual, group or community of people will emerge unscathed from the ongoing row about equalities lessons in schools.
Since February, protesters unhappy with the teaching of lessons about LGBT relationships have made their presence felt outside two predominantly Muslim inner-city Birmingham schools - Parkfield and Anderton Park.

In the main, the protesters have been Muslim, the groups made up of parents and activists. As a result of the protests outside Parkfield, the equalities programme, No Outsiders, through which children learn about LGBT relationships, was suspended while discussions took place between the school and the parents
The programme will be reintroduced in the autumn under an amended name, No Outsiders For A Faith Community, and with various modifications having been made to the lessons.
Despite the consultations, protesters remain unhappy with the programme, claiming that it continues to be 'heavily biased towards LGBTQ'

Woolly guidelines

At Anderton Park, meanwhile, an interim injunction won by Birmingham City Council ensured a trouble-free end to the summer term, with a court hearing pending to look at the case in greater detail.
The school's head, Sarah Hewitt-Clarkson, has been critical of the Government guidelines regarding equalities lessons, saying that they're 'too woolly'. It remains to be seen whether Boris Johnson's sacking of Education Minister Damian Hinds, replacing him with Gavin Williamson, will bring about any change in strategy regarding Department for Education guidance.

Male choke-hold

What *is* clear, however, is that there are plenty of voices in the Muslim community speaking out against the protests - not only because they disagree with the stance being taken, but also because they fear the impact which a small number of religious

MUST STAND

fundamentalists may have on the standing of the community as a whole.

Saima Razzaq, the first Muslim woman to lead a Pride Parade in Britain - this year's Birmingham Pride - and the co-chair of SEEDS (Supporting the Education of Equality and Diversity in Schools), is particularly concerned about the impact which the ongoing row is having on the *female* Muslim community: "We as Muslim women need to find a way to detach ourselves from this continuous male choke-hold on a narrative that sees men representing the British Muslim experience, when in fact they represent no one but themselves "

'Homophobic' protesters

And Saima is not alone in her concerns about the motivations behind the protests. Khakan Qureshi, a gay Muslim activist who runs Birmingham South Asians LGBT and who led the Birmingham Pride Parade alongside Saima, believes that the Muslim community as a whole is not homophobic, but feels that a minority of protesters are 'agitating'.

"The attitudes of the protesters towards the No Outsiders programme is completely homophobic," he told the BBC. "No matter how they package it, it still comes across as homophobic."

Stench of hypocrisy

Khakan's view is shared by Muna Adil, who works for Quilliam International, the world's first counter-extremism organisation. "The stench of hypocrisy is unmissable," she says. "The vitriolic hate espoused by these parents has somehow managed to disguise itself as victimhood. Their claim is that the promotion of LGBT awareness is 'exploiting children's innocence'. But what about the fundamentalist Muslim agenda that aggressively pushes the notion that homosexuality is sinful? What about its repercussions on gay Muslim kids who will be forced to repress their identities forever if they wish to remain part of their communities?"

Support has also come from leading Muslim charity Tell MAMA, whose spokesperson told Metro.co.uk: "The actions against an LGBTQ programme in Birmingham take a 'pick and mix' approach to equalities, which is not acceptable."

Meanwhile, the Church of England is to provide support for its schools to help them deliver the new relationship education required by the Government from 2020, including teaching on LGBT relationships and families.

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY LEADER CALLS FOR NEW EDUCATION SECRETARY TO DEAL WITH LGBT LESSONS POLICY AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY

Birmingham Pride's Festival Director, Lawrence Barton, has urged the newly appointed Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, to make dealing with the LGBT lessons controversy his first task - and to act decisively where former minster Damian Hinds failed to do so, by issuing full guidance to headteachers.

Gavin Williamson

This year's Birmingham Pride festival supported the No Outsiders programme which has been at the centre of the ongoing row. Devised by Parkfield Community School's gay assistant headteacher Andrew Moffat, the programme teaches children about equality and includes information on LGBT relationships.

Mr Barton, whose company, GB Training, teaches vocational skills, said: "Political intervention and decisive action is now demanded from the new education secretary to resolve the LGBT lessons controversy once and for all. Gavin Williamson needs to issue full guidance to headteachers throughout the UK so that these homophobic protesters cannot sabotage and target and intimidate children, parents and teachers outside individual schools.

"The government has been too slow in its response to these anti-equality protesters. Despite those opposing the lessons allegedly doing so on the grounds of religious beliefs or family values, our LGBT existence and our way of life has to be respected. It's absolutely vital that all children are taught about the many different kinds of family that exist in today's society, including those that have two mummies or two daddies. These lessons will go a long way to helping stamp out bullying in the playground.

"Amanda Spielman, Ofsted's chief inspector, has already explained the necessity for equality teaching in education and schools. She also made a very strong and important point about the essence of democracy - not everyone gets what they want but the majority should be respected."

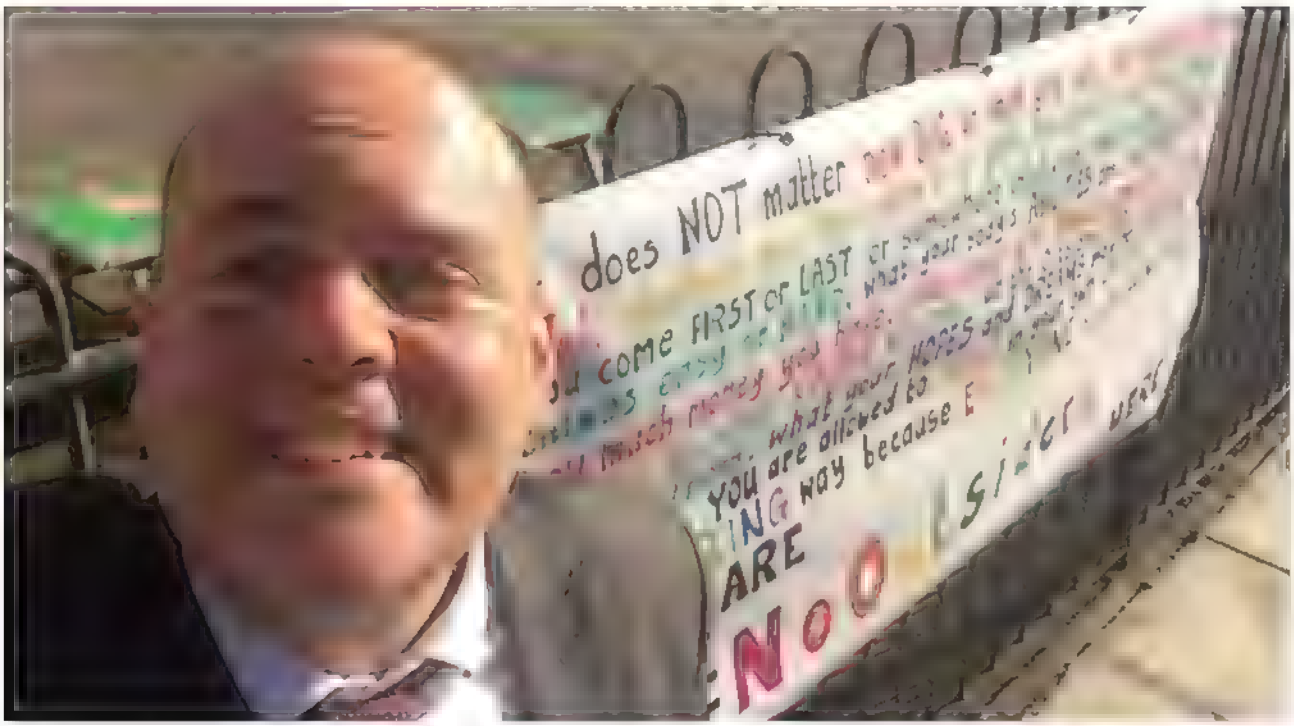
Last month a group of 70 MPs signed a letter to Damian Hinds, calling for the government to give clearer support to schools around the issue of teaching about LGBT relationships.

Mr Hinds failed to act on the MPs' call. The LGBT community and its allies will be hoping that the new education secretary doesn't follow suit.

Lawrence Barton pictured here with new Prime Minister Boris Johnson

CAN'T PASS IT ON
People on effective HIV treatment CANNOT pass on the virus
FACT
www.tht.org.uk
Terrence Higgins Trust

We should never have stopped teaching No Outsiders lessons, says school boss!



The protesters demonstrating against equalities lessons that include information about LGBT relationships were empowered by the decision to suspend the No Outsiders programme, says the chief executive of the academy trust that runs Parkfield primary school.

Hazel Pulley, CEO of the Excelsior Multi-Academy Trust

The No Outsiders equalities programme was devised by Parkfield's gay assistant headteacher Andrew Moffat.

Speaking to the Times Educational Supplement, Hazel Pulley, CEO of the Excelsior Multi-Academy Trust, said that the Department for Education put the school under "extreme pressure" to pause the programme in order to stop the protests It's a claim which was repeated recently in the BBC's Panorama programme

"We shouldn't have suspended, and we shouldn't have been asked to suspend," said Ms Pulley. "I've really tussled with this, and I am absolutely adamant now: don't suspend, it gave power to one side. "There was nothing wrong; it immediately made it look as if you were doing something wrong and we hadn't."

She continued: "It didn't work, on reflection, because whilst we were suspended it was as if it empowered them. It empowered them with what they had managed to do.

"So when we went into meetings they came at it from a stance of 'well look what we've managed to do now, look what we could do in the future'."

NOTTINGHAM PARENTS IN SUPPORT OF LGBT LESSONS

The LGBT lessons row has spread to Nottingham, where protesters recently demonstrated outside Fernwood Primary School. But they weren't alone... A group of parents staged a counter-protest at the same time - and did so with rainbow flags to hand!

18 MidlandsZone.co.uk

ROBBIE LEWIS

Midlands Zone Readers' Awards 2019 Best Club DJ winner Robbie Lewis chats about his career, musical influences and life away from the DJ booth...

What's the best thing about working in the Gay Village, Robbie, and in particular at the Nightingale?

I absolutely love my job, so being able to get up and play in front of all those people every week is something that never gets old. Also, the dancers, other DJs and the management team are great people who are very creative. We have a lot of fun working together

Talk through a typical Saturday night in the village...

I arrive in Birmingham around 10pm and set up the club. If I get time, I'll experiment with the lighting or stage setup to keep things fresh. The ground floor fills up as soon as we open, and it's high energy right till the very end. Around midnight the dancers join me on stage and it becomes a bit more of a performance. By performance, I mean the dancers being amazing and me dancing badly! At 2am, Just Soriah takes over and takes the music in some cool new direction. She's very good at that.

How long have you been in the DJ business and what first attracted you to the job?

Eleven years now! I started out in Leicester playing the back room in the only gay club there at the time. I'd been working as a barman previously and figured out pretty quickly that the DJ booth was for me

> I absolutely love my job. So being able to get up and play in front of all those people every week is something that never gets old

You were part of a duo called The Mix Munkies. What influenced your decision to go solo?

I'm really proud of what Sam and I did with Mix Munkies. We achieved a lot, and I wouldn't have got this far without it. In 2013 we were both trying other things. During that time I got a solo gig at a club in Leicester and realised that I wanted to push ahead on my own.

You've worked with numerous other DJs. Who's been the best to work with?

I've done a lot of work with Lisa Lashes - she's been a great friend and inspiration over the years. Driving around to different cities can sometimes be a bit lonely, so it's hanging out with the other residents that I really appreciate. Just Soriah, Richard Moon, Simon Harris, DJ Corey are all great friends who I've worked with for many years now

Who's influenced you most as a DJ?

I try to focus on being a really good resident DJ. That means I get to know my crowd really well and work hard to give them what they want every week. So I take influence from the scene. If a new track drops on Drag Race and it'll work in the club, then I'll have it on the following weekend.

What are the advantages & disadvantages of being a DJ?

I love partying. Being able to steer the ship on a busy night in the club is the best thing in the world. I also love the creativity and all the different people you meet. The disadvantage is that successful DJs don't get very much sleep!

If you could change one thing on the scene, what would it be?

I'd bring back the days when bars and clubs were packed every night of the week! I'd also like to see more 'production' in clubs in general. By this I mean dancers, performers, lighting and special effects. It's something we're really focused on at the Nightingale, and I consider it an integral part of my performances.

What's your view on the current unrest in the Gay Village that's been caused by the proposal to build more residential properties?

I'm very aware of the growing threat to our nightlife from poor residential planning. I've been involved in petitioning Birmingham City Council at every stage, and I encourage others to do the same. It's an issue affecting the nighttime industry across the UK, and it needs constant effort from communities to prevent further erosion.

As part of the organising team for Leicester Pride, what are your views on the recent call for a straight Pride?

The mere suggestion of it is insulting to the members of our community who are still fighting every day to gain acceptance and freedom of identity. It shows that we still have a lot of work to do.

What would be your ideal night out away from work?

Pizza, Xbox and an early night!

What would be your second career choice?

In the daytime I work as a web developer, integrating ecommerce websites with back-end systems. It's a great mix of creativity and problem-solving, and sitting in a chair all day gives me a welcome rest after the weekend!

Where did you grow up?

In a little village near Leicester. My childhood was spent making dens in the woods and riding my bike. I still live nearby, in a village 10 minutes away. I love the city, but when I'm at home I like the peace and quiet.

When did you first realise you were gay?

I was aware of it before I even knew what 'gay' was. I had relationships with boys and girls until I was 21. At university I thought I'd give having a girlfriend one last go. That didn't work out, so I've considered myself gay ever since.

When did you come out?

My mum is a lesbian and I'm fairly sure she knew all along. I never felt any pressure to be one thing or the other. I'm very thankful for that and understand how lucky I am compared to some.

What would you say to your 18-year-old self?

Buy facebook.com, twitter.com, instagram.com and snapchat.com now, and in 10 years you'll be rich!

What makes you angry?

I find party politics very frustrating - when our elected MPs spend more time vying for control than tackling important issues. It also annoys me that so much misinformation is spread across social media and the tabloid press. Both of these issues waste so much time and energy and are of no real benefit to society

What makes you sad?

It makes me sad that our trans and non binary community are experiencing the same struggles that LGBT people have been facing for decades. We must support them in achieving the same liberties and freedoms that we're beginning to enjoy. There's still so much work to do through Pride events and in our local communities

What makes you smile?

When I drop an old or obscure track and everyone in the crowd goes 'Ohhhh!' because they know it. Or when we're on stage and one of the dancers does something really cool or unexpected and the whole crowd screams. If we have a few of those moments during a night, I go home feeling great.

Are you a gym junkie?

Yeah, a little bit. I only got serious about it a couple of years ago. It's definitely become a bit of an addiction, but there are far worse ones to have, I suppose.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I'd like to be a little bit shorter! I'm all arms and legs, to be honest, a bit clumsy - and it's hard to find t-shirts that fit. I've got quite a few dents in my head too, so let's hope I don t lose my hair.

How important is your appearance?

Good skin and hair will do for me. I'm no fashionista, so I have to work on the bits that I'm able to do well. Working with the performers at the Nightingale has taught me that confidence can come from all sorts of places. The looks they throw are consistently amazing. Unfortunately I lack such talent.

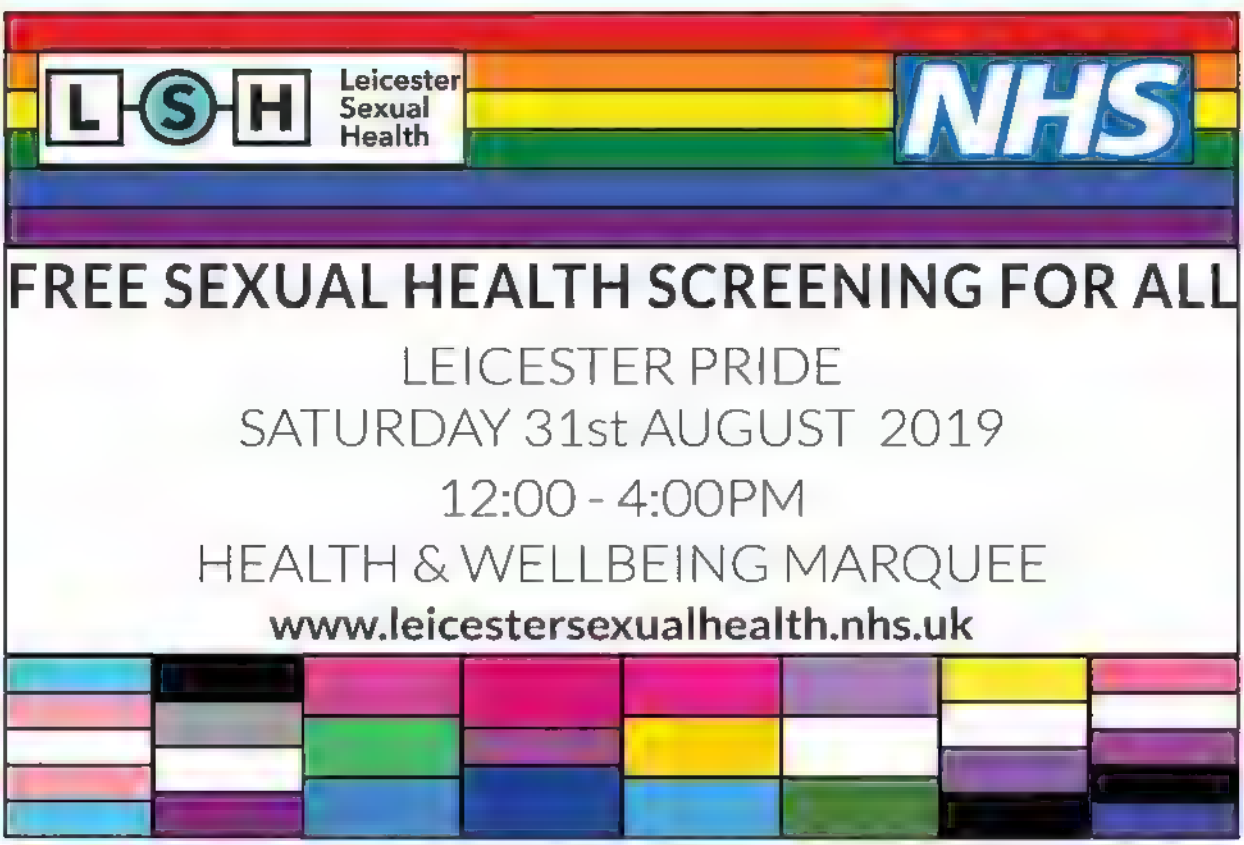
Who's your all-time favourite music artist?

I actually love all music genres. In the car I listen to rock and metal; in the gym, drum & bass and dubstep. At work I listen to classical. So it's a tough one For club music I'll go for Whitney Houston, Destiny's Child and Missy Elliot.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement?

It's going to sound corny but getting my residency again at the Nightingale. I first started at the club in 2010 as part of Mix Munkies, and we were residents until financial problems forced the club to close. It took four years of hard work to prove to the new management that I had what it takes. I gave a great performance in The Loft at Birmingham Pride 2017, and that's when I got the call.

You can catch Robbie as a resident DJ at Helsinki in Leicester and the Nightingale Club in Birmingham. He will also be performing on the main stage at Leicester Pride on Saturday 31 August.
You can follow Robbie on Instagram at @djrobbielewis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Midlands Partnership Foundation NHS Trust providing Sexual Health Services in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Services commissioned by Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils

Lots of love for Leicester Pride

Saturday 31 August

Leicester Pride returns to Victoria Park on Saturday 31 August.
As usual, the festival starts with the Pride Parade, beginning at midday and making its way through the city centre, arriving at Victoria Park at 1pm.
Miss Marty and Lea Martin will host the festival site, with acts including Seann Miley Moore, Kelly Wilde, The Dolly Show and DJ Robbie Lewis.
There will also be plenty of market and community stalls to explore, plus a wide range of food outlets.
Billy Bates' funfair makes a welcome return too

Full details are available at **leicesterpride.com**

Chester Pride

Saturday 10 August

Now in its seventh year, Chester Pride takes place in the town's Castle Square on Saturday 10 August.
This year's parade will take a brand new route, starting and finishing in Castle Square, passing under the Chester Historical Eastgate Clock.
The main stage line-up includes Heather Small, Whigfield, Kelly Wilde, Nicki French and X Factor's Lloyd Daniels

Full details are available at **chesterpride.co.uk**

Warwickshire Pride

Saturday 17 August

Warwickshire Pride returns to the Pump Room Gardens in Leamington Spa on Saturday 17 August.

The theme for this year is Golden Pride, marking the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots

Local performers who've been announced so far include Kian Taylor-Jackson, Rosa Francesca, Nona Wyld and Asifa Lahore.

Full details are available at **warwickshirepride.co.uk**

Walsall Pride

Saturday 24 August

Walsall Pride takes place in the town centre and features three performance stages, a fairground, market stalls, bars and food outlets.

The Saddlers Centre main stage line-up includes Sugababes' Mutya Buena, Livin Joy, Nikki Belle and Britain's Got Talent's Rob King.

Local LGBTQ+ venue The Lion Bar & Club will host the official after-party.

Full details are available at **walsallpride.org**

Derby celebrates 50 years of Pride

Saturday 7 September

Derby Pride 2019 takes place on Saturday 7 September in the city's Curzon Street.

This year's event celebrates 50 years of Pride, paying tribute to those who stood up to hatred, bigotry and brutality at New York's Stonewall Inn back in 1969.

Pride day will start with a large and colourful parade through the central shopping area and the Market Place, ending up at Curzon Street at midday for the start of the main event.

Hosting the main stage will be Soraya Vivian and Pete Martine, with other featured performers including Rozalla, Kele le Roc, Typically Tina, United Vibe, Nikk Mager and Leo Golden Child.

In addition to the on-stage performances, the event also includes a vibrant market area, food & drinks vendors, two bars, fairground rides and a dedicated family zone featuring child friendly activities and attractions

Full details are available at **derbypride.co.uk**

SUMMER OF PRIDE

August/September Dates

Brighton Pride
Friday 2 - Sunday 4 August
Hove Lawns/Preston Park
brighton-pride.org

Leeds Pride
Sunday 4 August
Leeds Centre leedspride.com

Chester Pride
Saturday 10 August
Castle Square, Chester
chesterpride.co.uk

Warwickshire Pride
Saturday 17 August
Pump Room Gardens
Leamington Spa
warwickshirepride.co.uk

Manchester Pride
Friday 23 - Monday 26 August
Manchester
manchesterpride.com

Walsall Pride
Saturday 24 August
Gallery Square, Walsall
walsallpride.org

Leicester Pride
Saturday 31 August
Victoria Park, Leicester
leicesterpride.com

Reading Pride
Saturday 31 August
Kings Meadow, Leicester
readingpride.co.uk

Derby Pride
Saturday 7 September
Curzon Street, Derby
derbypride.co.uk

Pride MK
Saturday 14 September
Campbell Park pridemk.org.uk

SAT 7 SEPT
DERBY
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PRIDE KICKS OFF AT
12PM ON CURZON STREET UNTIL 3AM
PARADE MEETING POINT ST. PETER S CHURCHYARD, MEETING BETWEEN 11.00AM AND 11.15
ATTRACTIONS. LIVE MUSIC, MARKET ZONE, FAMILY AREA, FOOD AND DRINKS VENDORS, FAIRGROUND ATTRACTIONS
MAIN STAGE HOSTED BY SORAYA VIVIAN & PETE MARTINE
ACTS STUDIO STORM, ROZALLA, KELE LE ROC, TYPICALLY TINA, UNITED VIBE
TINA TURNER TRIBUTE
NIKK MAGER, LEO GOLDEN CHILD, JOEY LINDEN, ASIFA LAHORE, JD, KITTY TRAY
FREDDIE MERCURY TRIBUTE
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The Crown Inn
Curzon St, Derby

Chesterfield PRIDE

PHOTO SPECIAL

Chesterfield Pride last month celebrated its fifth year and attracted a record-breaking crowd of more than 5,000 people, with organisers hailing the event a big success. Performers on the day included Sonia, Katherine Ellis, Shenad and X-Factor's Sami Brookes.

Photos from Fox & Squirrel Photography

THE JOE ORTON STATUE APPEAL

HONOURING LEICESTER GAY PLAYWRIGHT

Leicester-born LGBT playwright and literary genius Joe Orton is best known for writing the shocking, outrageous and amusing black comedies, Entertaining Mr Sloane, Loot and What The Butler Saw. Now, over 50 years after his death in 1967, a campaign has been launched to have a statue of the iconic Midlands playwright erected in his home town.

Who was Joe Orton?

Despite being celebrated as a uniquely talented writer, Joe Orton's life was far from easy. Born John Kingsley Orton and raised on Leicester's Saffron Lane council estate, Joe was the eldest of four children born to a distant father and a mother who lacked emotional warmth. After failing the eleven plus exam, he enrolled in Clarks College and trained for a life of clerical work.

From these humble beginnings, Joe developed a passion for acting and achieved a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) in 1950. It was at RADA that he met Kenneth Halliwell, the man who was to become his friend, mentor, lover and, eventually, his murderer

Neither Joe nor Halliwell enjoyed RADA, and after graduating they devoted their time to becoming writers. It wasn't until the early 1960s that Joe had his first breakthrough; the radio play The Ruffian On The Stair was adapted and broadcast by the BBC Third Programme

Although Joe's public career was short - his first stage play, Entertaining Mr Sloane, premiered in 1964, just three years before his death - his work was highly influential. And given that he was an openly gay man at a time when homosexuality was actively persecuted by the police, his plays were also undeniably groundbreaking

Joe was murdered at the age of 34 by his gay partner

His scandalous black comedies won major awards in their day and have since been performed all over the world.

In the years since his death, Joe has been influential in the development of generations of writers, so much so that his unique style has given rise to the adjective 'Ortonesque', to describe work that blends the comic and the macabre.

His life, as revealed in his diaries, was as scandalous as his plays...

Joe died tragically at the age of 34, murdered by Halliwell, who bludgeoned him to death at their home in Islington, London, before killing himself with an overdose of Nembutal

Who is backing the campaign?

The Joe Orton Statue Appeal has been organised by a committee of Orton fans in Leicester and is headed by his sister, Leonie Orton, and Dr Emma Parker - a leading Orton expert at the University of Leicester. The campaign has also been lent support by a host of celebrities, including prominent LGBT figures Sir Ian McKellen and Stephen Fry

On hearing of the fundraising campaign, Fry said of the playwright: "Joe Orton has always been a hero to me, both in his work and in the authenticity, wit and wonder of his life A statue is a wonderful idea."

Other celebrities who have lent their support to the appeal include Hollywood A-lister Alec Baldwin, Scottish actor Kenneth Cranham and Sheila Hancock, CBE.

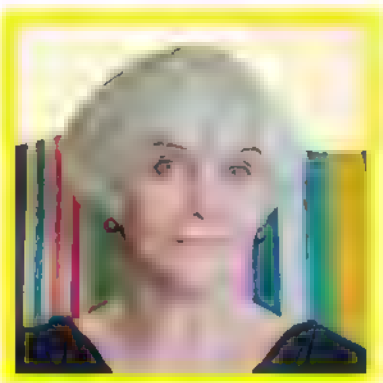
Joe's sister, Leonie Orton, and Sir Ian McKellen are campaigning for a statue of the iconic Midlands playwright to be erected in his home town of Leicester.

"I have craved Orton's writing for a long time, whether I'm sitting on stage or performing in the cast. There are no comparisons. He's a true original. Half poet, half devil's apprentice. I never tire of his wit, soul and anarchy"

ALEC BALDWIN

"Joe Orton has always been a hero to me, both in his work and in the authenticity, wit and wonder of his life A statue is a wonderful idea."

STEPHEN FRY



"Joe Orton was a revolutionary playwright; much respected worldwide. He was always proud of his roots in Leicester, as I hope they also feel proud of him and will express it by celebrating his genius with a statue in his home town"

SHEILA HANCOCK

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info@ageingwithpride.co.uk

How you can help...

The Joe Orton Statue Appeal in Leicester

The favoured location for the commemorative statue, which has a projected cost of £100,000, is Orton Square by Curve, at the heart of the Cultural Quarter.

Its design will be subject to a competition in which artists will be asked to represent a likeness of Orton in a suitably 'Ortonesque' way

It's hoped that the statue will become a symbol of Leicester's literary heritage and commitment to diversity and inclusivity

Leonie Orton, who administers Joe's estate with her sister, Marilyn, said: "A statue of Joe will ensure that a great writer is not forgotten, raise awareness of Leicester's rich literary heritage and serve as an inspirational reminder that talent is everywhere and art is for everyone, regardless of social background or circumstance."

The launch of the Joe Orton Statue Appeal took place at Curve on 25 July. Invited guests and Orton fans were presented with a short fundraising film from Sir Ian McKellen and Leonie Orton, as well as being given the first opportunity to pledge their support to the statue's funding

Guests were also able to take part in a silent auction, to bid for items from the Orton Archive, exclusive theatre experiences and Orton artwork.

There were also some once-in-a-lifetime rewards available for donating, including the chance to wear Joe's coat or have a private reading of the Orton Diaries by Kenneth Cranham.

Those wishing to pledge their support to the Joe Orton Statue Appeal can do so at www.spacehive.com/joe-orton-statue-appeal

Joe Orton's most famous works

Entertaining Mr Sloane (1964)
Joe's first major script was initially produced in London at the New Arts Theatre, later transferring to the West End's Wyndham's Theatre. The play follows the story of the handsome Mr Sloane, the sexually provocative Kath, her controlling brother, Ed, and their father, Kemp. The scandalous black comedy received mixed reviews but went on to be joint winner of Best New British Play in Variety's London Critics Poll. It was made into a film starring Beryl Reid and Peter McEnery in 1970.

Loot (1964)
Loot was Joe's third major production and is considered to have been the most successful of his plays during his lifetime. Despite having an unsuccessful first run, the dark farce eventually went on to win the Evening Standard's Best Play award. Satirising religion, social attitudes to death and the integrity of the police force, Loot follows the story of a pair of bank robbers and the psychopathic Inspector Truscott's pursuit of them. The film version starred Richard Attenborough.

What The Butler Saw (1969)
What The Butler Saw premiered in 1969, two years after Joe's death, and although it appalled audiences with its sexual overtones and attacks on conventional morality, it's considered by many to be the playwright's finest work. Opening in a private psychiatric clinic, the play soon descends into a farce, addressing such subjects as sexual and psychological exploitation, gender confusion, nymphomania, incest, blackmail and bribery. A BBC TV version of the play was screened 20 years after Joe's death.

Alan Turing is revealed as the new face of the £50 note...

Another hugely influential gay man is also soon to be commemorated - by becoming the new face of the £50 note. Genius mathematician and war hero Alan Turing was selected from a shortlist of 12 to appear on the note, which is expected to enter circulation by the end of 2021

Turing was selected not only to recognise his role in World War Two, where he worked at Bletchley Park devising ways to break Nazi ciphers, but also to acknowledge the impact of his persecution for homosexuality after the war

In 2013, he was posthumously granted a royal pardon. Three years later, thousands of men convicted of offences that once criminalised homosexuality were also posthumously pardoned

The new £50 note is set to feature a photo of Turing taken in 1951; a table and mathematical formulae from one of Turing's papers, a quote from Turing as well as his signature; and ticker tape depicting Turing's birth date in binary code

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Test: A urine sample or vaginal swab

Treatment: Easily treated with antibiotic tablets

SYPHILIS

Symptoms: No symptoms, small, painless sore around genitals, rash on palms of hands and soles of feet, swollen glands or a flu-like illness

Test: A blood sample

Treatment: Usually treated by an injection in the bum cheek

GONORRHOEA

Symptoms: No symptoms, discharge from tip of the penis, yellow/green discharge from vagina, bleeding between periods

Test: A urine sample or vaginal swab

Treatment: Easily treated with an injection

HIV

Symptoms: Flu-like illness a few weeks after infection

Test: A fingerprick test or a blood sample, depending where you go for the test

Treatment: There is no cure but HIV can be treated with antiretroviral drugs. If you're on effective treatment you can't pass on HIV to anyone else.

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A tweet in the right direction

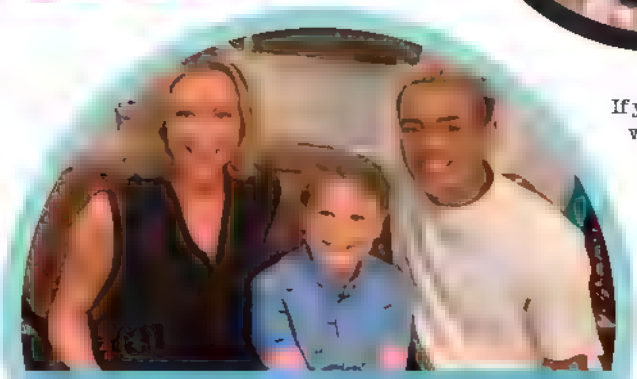
At the risk of appearing horribly social mediarist, I hate Twitter. I quite like Facebook. I can get on with YouTube. I find Instagram a bit poncey - but then I suppose even poncey people need somewhere to call their own (Legal notice: other forms of social media are available, but I simply can't be bothered to find out what they are). But I cannot abide Twitter. I just cannot get on with it.

And that's one of the problems. That was my 250-character limit right there. There is nothing you can do but be a smart arse (or plagiarise a smart arse) in 250 characters. It's designed for people who only want the bare minimum of detail and have nothing more to say.

But the main problem is that there is just so much of it. I start reading, and an hour later I've read so many tweets but actually learnt nothing. It's a bombardment of nothing - and so, so much of nothing.

The election when Trump won was one of the most depressing of recent years - it's right down there with the worst of them, along with Brexit getting the (not very) popular vote and Jenny first appearing on The L Word. On the day Trump became President-elect, Twitter went crazy, with some 40 million tweets about the election. I couldn't bear to watch any news at all that day, let alone read 40 million horrendously poor puns about orangeness and Top Trumps (UK only).

I *have* tried it. I do feature on Twitter, and every now and again I get a notification that some poor fool is eagerly awaiting my next tweet. But that tweet will never come. I went at it with some enthusiasm for the first few hours. I picked a photo to represent me and I spent a while trying to think of some exciting, meaningful, hilarious and topical inaugural tweet. Failed. Then I followed a few people and unfollowed them when I realised that they failed at writing decent tweets too. And now it's like that empty shop on the high street.



"Sadly a little boy I teach, Charlie, is sadly being bullied at school for his love of MT, being called FAT, STUPID... Today he was beaten up by 6 boys and left curled up, crying."

"I FOUND MYSELF WONDERING IF THERE WERE HALF-DECENT PEOPLE TWITTERING AFTER ALL"

If you peer through the dirty windows of my Twitter account, you can just about see what I once sold, but now it's just littered with unwanted post. It's unlikely that the shop will ever be used again.

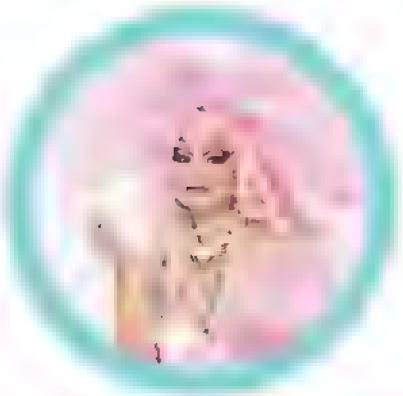
Having said all of that, my hard ice-cold Twitter heart melted slightly recently, and I found myself wondering if there were half-decent people Twittering after all.

A teacher concerned about one of her pupils wrote: "Sadly a little boy I teach, Charlie, who is also a dear family friend is sadly being bullied at school for his love of MT, being called gay, fat, stupid....the list goes on. Today he was beaten up by 6 boys and left curled up, crying."

And then loads and loads of people responded with the most heart-warming videos and messages to make Charlie smile. Apparently, lots of these people are very famous in the world of MT (Musical Theatre. See, I looked it up so you don't have to...), which made it incredibly special for Charlie, who deserves all the happiness he can get.

Bullying is an age-old problem, and we've so far failed to get any sort of grasp on how we get rid of it. But if social media can help those who are suffering bullying, at least that's a step in the right direction. Even if it means I have to go onto Twitter to find out what it's all about.

Many thanks to all you MT celebrities who came to Charlie's aid.



LET'S TALK:
The Lacey Lou Column

Let's talk... Coming Out and understanding the lingo...

"In order to bridge gaps between people, we need to understand and educate ourselves about differences"

Hello, I'm Lacey and I'm pansexual.

Growing up, I knew there was something a bit different about me when compared to my friends and peers. I think we all felt that disconnect. I've always been queer - in how I think, dress and what I've generally been drawn to. With little to no conversation around LGBT+ topics taking place when my friends and I were growing up, most of us didn't have a clue what was going on. Sexuality is a huge part of a person's identity, and we need to be able to understand who we are It's only then that we can be true to ourselves and live life to the full

In two relationships with men, I had to try and understand my sexuality. It was hard. I couldn't fully work out who I was.

The last few years have seen a great leap forward in terms of conversations around LGBT+ issues. Education about and understanding of the different sexualities, genders and identities that make up our ever-inclusive initialism has improved. Many people don't need a label, but for some there is great comfort in knowing that they fall into the same category as others. It can really help people understand not only themselves but the world around them and the community to which they belong.

In order to bridge gaps between people, we need to understand and educate ourselves about differences. I hope the list of definitions on the opposite page helps... I've brushed up on a few of them myself!

Lots of love,

Lacey X

The LGBTQ+ Lingo...

ASEXUAL

Someone without sexual feelings or associations

BISEXUAL

Someone who experiences attraction to people of their gender and another gender. Bisexual attraction does not have to be equally split, nor indicate a level of interest that is the same across the genders to which an individual may be attracted.

CISGENDER OR CIS

Someone whose gender identity is the same as the sex they were assigned at birth.

GAY

The term gay refers to a man who has a romantic and/or sexual orientation towards men. It is also considered a general term for lesbian and gay sexuality – some women define themselves as gay rather than lesbian.

INTERSEX

A term used to describe a person who may have the biological attributes of both sexes, or whose biological attributes do not fit with societal assumptions about what constitutes male or female.

Intersex people may identify as male, female or non-binary (see below).

LESBIAN

Refers to a woman who has a romantic and/or sexual orientation towards women.

NON-BINARY

An umbrella term for people whose gender identity doesn't sit comfortably with 'man' or 'woman'. Non-binary identities are varied and can include people who identify with some aspects of binary identities and people who reject them entirely

PANSEXUAL

Refers to a person whose romantic and/or sexual attraction towards others is not limited by sex or gender

QUEER

Queer is a term used by those wanting to reject specific labels of romantic orientation, sexual orientation and/or gender identity. It can also be a way of rejecting the perceived norms of the LGBT community (racism, sizeism, ableism etc). Although some LGBT people view the word as a slur, it was reclaimed and embraced by the queer community in the late 1980s

QUESTIONING

The process of exploring your own sexual orientation and/or gender identity

QPOC/QTPOC

Initialisms that stand for queer people of colour and queer and/or trans people of colour.

TRANSGENDER

An umbrella term to describe people whose gender identity does not correspond with, or does not sit comfortably with, the sex they were assigned at birth

TWITTER: Carry on the chat @laceymcfadyen

NHS

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Male only clinic sessions available.
Find out more at:
www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk

Free, private and confidential sexual health checks for gay & bisexual men, men who have sex with men and swingers*.

29*

Day: Mondays
Time: 2 - 5pm (last appointment 4.45pm)
Place: 29 New Bond Street, LE1 4RQ

Splash Spa & Leisure

Day: Tuesdays
Time: 2 - 5pm (last appointment 4.45pm)
Place: 61 Bedford Street, LE1 3JR

Amigos Leisure

Day: Thursdays
Time: 2 - 5pm (last appointment 4.45pm)
Place: 30 Bedford Street South, LE1 3JR

CLINIC

TRADE

Day: Fridays
Time: 12 - 2pm (last appointment 1.45pm)
Place: 2nd Floor, 27 Bowling Green Street, LE1 6AS
You can also check out Trade Sexual Health:
www.tradesexualhealth.com

Rainbows Reign OK!

ON THE BALL
with Steve Ball

Steve talks about Kings and Queens and red-hot pokers where the sun doesn't shine

Of the 41 kings and queens since William The Conqueror, it s reckoned that seven were likely to have been lesbian, gay or bisexual.

They didn't all lead happy and contented lives For starters there was Edward the Second, the most famous gay king. Everyone knows how he died, murdered at Berkeley Castle, Gloucestershire, by being held down and having a red hot poker inserted where the sun doesn't shine His screams could be heard for miles around, and historians believe this cruel torture was probably devised as punishment for his presumed sexual shenanigans with men.

A few hundred years later, by the time George VI was on the throne, things had changed. King George's wife, the late Queen Mother, enjoyed friendships with some of the most flamboyant gay men of her day, including Noel Coward, who was rumoured to have had an affair with her own brother-in-law, Prince George, the Duke of Kent. On one occasion during cocktail hour at Clarence House, the Queen (as she then was) was impatiently waiting for her gin and Dubonnet and called down to the servants' quarters: "I don't know about any of you queens down there, but this Queen up here wants a drink."

Fast forward to 2019, when earlier this summer Prince William announced, on a visit to an LGBT homeless centre in London, that he wouldn't care if his children were gay He did, however, say he'd be worried about the pressures they would face from society He also admitted that he'd only started thinking about the issue since becoming a father, and that he wished we lived in a world where it wouldn't matter.

Sadly, being LGBT still does matter, especially in the 37 Commonwealth countries where it s still illegal to be gay But knowing that our future king and de facto head of the Commonwealth holds such pro-equality views provides hope that attitudes and actions will continue to change

PRINCE WILLIAM ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULDN'T CARE IF HIS CHILDREN WERE GAY.

KNOWING THAT OUR FUTURE KING – HOLDS SUCH PRO-EQUALITY VIEWS PROVIDES HOPE THAT ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS WILL CONTINUE TO CHANGE.

GAY ALLIES

AND WHY WE NEED THEM MORE THAN EVER

In recent times the LGBTQ+ community has endured many a setback, from the RISE IN HOMOPHOBIC HATE CRIME to the ongoing row about EQUALITIES LESSONS IN SCHOOLS. Now more than ever, we need our allies to step forward and help in our mission to create equal rights for all. Here, we take a look at those in the spotlight who have come forward to show their support for LGBTQ+ issues, helping to spread awareness and positivity on a larger scale...

PRINCE WILLIAM

On a recent visit to Albert Kennedy Trust's London headquarters, the Duke of Cambridge expressed his support for the LGBTQ+ community when he contemplated the possibility that one of his children could come out as gay

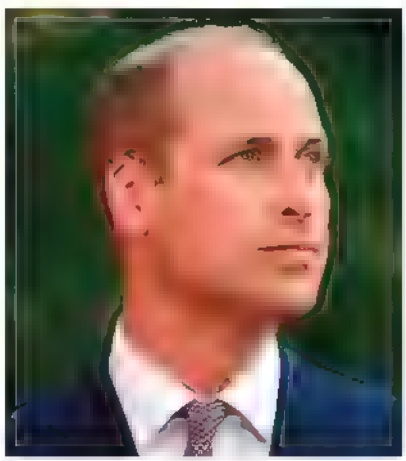
He was asked by a young gay man: "If your child one day in the future said, 'Oh, I'm gay, oh, I'm lesbian' whatever, how would you react?"

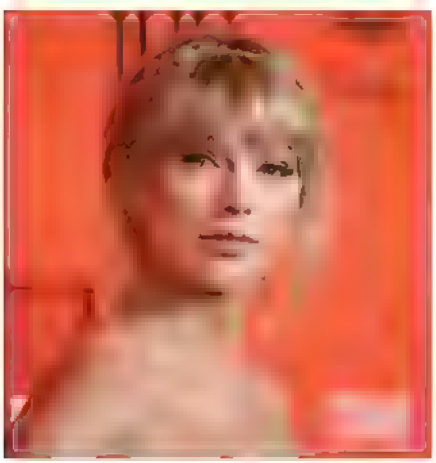
William replied: "I think you don't really start thinking about that until you are a parent, and I think - obviously, absolutely fine by me "

The prince, a father of three, added: "The one thing I'd be worried about is how, particularly the roles my children fill, how that is going to be interpreted and seen. So Catherine and I have been doing a lot of talking about it, to make sure they were prepared."

He added. "It worries me not because of them being gay; it worries me how everyone else will react and perceive it, and the pressure is then on them.

"I wish we lived in a world where, like you said, it's really normal and cool. But particularly for my family and the position that we are in, that's the bit I'm nervous about."





TAYLOR SWIFT

To kick off Pride month, pop star Taylor Swift wrote a letter to her senator in support of the Equality Act, and is asking her fans to do the same.

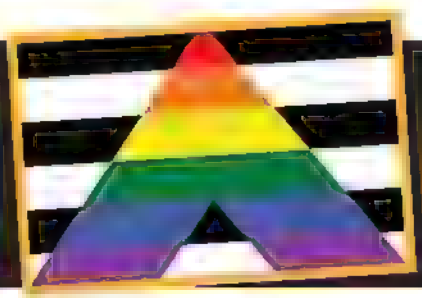
The bill, which passed in the House of Representatives, is an amendment to the 1964 Civil Rights Act. It protects LGBTQ+ people against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace, housing, jury selection and public accommodations. The bill now needs to go before the Senate, and Swift has created a Change org petition to urge Congress to pass it.

"Our country's lack of protection for its own citizens ensures that LGBTQ people must live in fear that their lives could be turned upside down by an employer or landlord who is homophobic or transphobic," Taylor wrote on Instagram. "The fact that, legally, some people are completely at the mercy of the hatred and bigotry of others is disgusting and unacceptable."

As we go to print, the change.org petition is nearing 500,000 signatures

What is an ally anyway?

An ally, straight ally or heterosexual ally is a heterosexual and/or cisgender person who supports equal civil rights, gender equality and LGBT social movements, and who challenges homophobia, biphobia and transphobia.



GEORGE CLOONEY

Hollywood actor George Clooney called for a boycott of nine luxury hotels with links to Brunei after the country said that gay sex and adultery would be punishable by death. Homosexuals could have faced being stoned to death or, in the case of lesbians, whipped, had the Sultan of Brunei not then backtracked on the legislation.

Mr Clooney said the laws amounted to human rights violations. "In the onslaught of news, where we see the world backsliding into authoritarianism, this stands alone," the actor wrote in a column for the entertainment website, Deadline. "Brunei is a monarchy, and certainly any boycott would have little effect on changing these laws. But are we really going to help pay for these human rights violations?"
He said Dorchester Collection hotels in the US, UK, France and Italy, which are owned by the Brunei Investment Agency, should be avoided by those who opposed the new laws

NICKI MINAJ

Rapper Nicki Minaj recently cancelled a scheduled performance in Saudi Arabia, citing her support for the rights of women and the LGBT community

Her headline billing at Jeddah World Fest triggered an outcry from critics of the country s human rights record.

"After careful reflection, I have decided to no longer move forward with my scheduled concert at Jeddah World Fest," the singer said in a statement.

"While I want nothing more than to bring my show to fans in Saudi Arabia, after better educating myself on the issues, I believe it is important for me to make clear my support for the rights of women, the LGBTQ community and freedom of expression."

JOE ROOT

Homophobia in sport, amongst players and fans, is still an issue that the LGBTQ+ community is having to battle against. In recent times, however, there have been some positive actions that have allowed attitudes to move forward. Back in February, England cricket captain Joe Root challenged West Indies bowler Shannon Gabriel after the latter used the word 'gay' in a derogatory manner on the field of play during a Test match in the Caribbean

Responding to Gabriel's comment, Root said: "Don't use it as an insult. There's nothing wrong with being gay."

Root's response was praised by LGBTQ+ charities, fellow sportsmen and British politicians

When asked after the match about the incident, Root commented: "I just did what I thought was right. You have responsibility to go about things in a certain manner on the field, and it felt appropriate to act how I did."

Local MPs show their support...

MP JESS PHILLIPS

MP LIAM BYRNE

WIN! with Midlands Zone...

Two tickets to see On Your Feet!

The Broadway and West End production of Gloria and Emilio Estefan's smash-hit musical, On Your Feet!, embarks on an international tour this autumn.

Telling the inspiring true love story of Emilio and Gloria, the show charts their journey from Cuba to international superstardom via the streets of Miami.

This exhilarating musical features some of the most iconic pop songs of the era, including Rhythm Is Gonna Get You, Conga, Get On Your Feet, Don't Want To Lose You Now and 1 2 3.

We have two tickets to give away to see On Your Feet! when it cha-cha-chas its way into Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday 5 to Saturday 7 September...

Enter the competition via our Facebook page at @midlandszone

Ageing with Pride

Our campaign is drawing to a close, and it's time to find out your views.

Regardless of your age - if you live, work or socialise in Birmingham, we want to hear from YOU!

Take part in our survey at surveymonkey.co.uk/r/awpfinal

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What's On

The Pretty Weird Tour

Two of the best queens from RuPaul's Drag Race Season 11, Plastique Tiara & Yvie Oddly, here team up for a touring show that comes complete with their dancers from the USA and host for the night Ru Jazzle. Get ready to get weird.

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Wednesday 7 August

Grease

Dust off your leather jackets, pull on your bobby-socks and get ready for the most fun filled high-octane rock'n'roll party of them all!

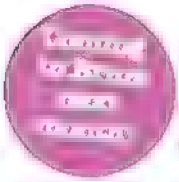
Grease is the original high-school musical, featuring all the unforgettable songs from the hit movie, including You're The One That I Want, Grease Is The Word, Summer Nights, Hopelessly Devoted To You, Sandy and Greased Lightnin'.

The cast includes singer Peter Andre, who plays Teen Angel in selected performances at the Hippodrome (check the theatre's website for full details).

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tuesday 13 - Saturday 24 August

The Dreamboys

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Saturday 10 August



Quentin Crisp: Naked Hope

Quentin Crisp certainly had a talent for outrageous self publicity. Back in the mid 20th century, 'mincing around' the streets of London in gaudy makeup and dying one's hair crimson was a pretty good way for a gay man to get himself not only noticed but also thoroughly duffed up - and Quentin certainly bagged a beating or two en route to the fame and fragility of his old age.

This 'glorious, uplifting celebration of the urgent necessity to be your true self' is written and performed by Mark Farrelly

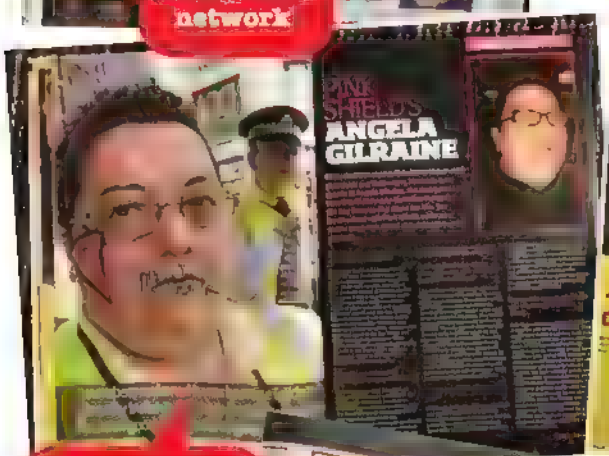
Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Thursday 5 - Saturday 7 September

10 YEARS AGO

A look back in Midland's Zone from August 2009

Robbie Williams awards £30,000 to Stoke LGBT network

It's 10 years since Gorgeous Nightclub in Wolverhampton opened its doors



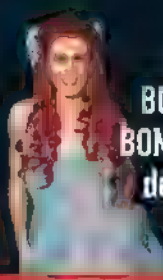
We interviewed Angela Gilraine who headed up the now defunct Pink Shield group in Birmingham

Mardi Gras fancy dress shop opened in the car park at the bottom of Hurst St - pictured with Miss Marty is manager Scott Rhodes

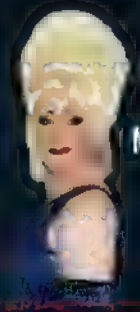
Gal from Eden celebrating his birthday

Big success for Nottingham Pride Parade

GLITORIS GIRLS are set to sparkle at The Yard



BURLESQUE BOMBSHELLS descend on Eden Bar



MISS AMBER brings the funny to Bar Diva

DRAG QUEENS unite for charity at Missing

SCENE

Your guide to the month ahead on [redacted]

Drag SOS' Lill sits in judgement at

THE CHURCH OF YSHEE

FINAL

Sunday 11 August at the Nightingale, Birmingham

What's On

The Vivienne

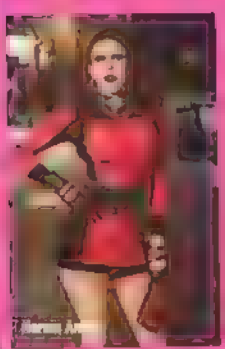
Mon 5 August, Havana Republic, Shrewsbury

AROUND THE MIDLANDS GAY SCENE

Church of Yshee Grand Final

Birmingham drag lipsync competition The Church Of Yshee holds its long awaited final this month - with one lucky act leaving with a £1,000 cash prize! Guest judges include drag king Chiyo Gomes, Manchester's Heroin Amor, Drag SOS' Lill and SHOUT Festival Director Adam Carver.

Sunday 11 August, Nightingale Club, Birmingham, and an after-party at The Village Inn.



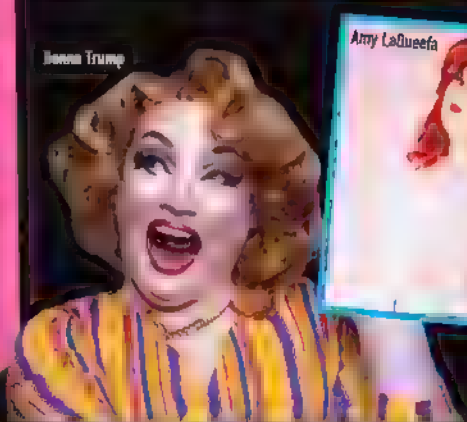
Chiyo Gomes

Celebrating a whole DECADE of DRAG NIGHT

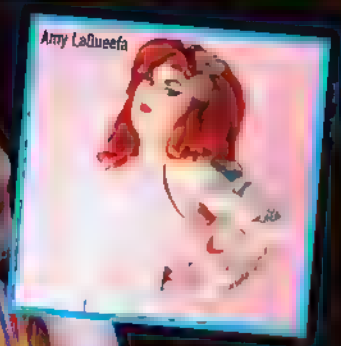
Traditionally one of Missing Bar's busiest evenings, Drag Night returns for a 10th year, raising money for West Midlands Positive.

Expect performances from Twiggy, Amy LaQueefa, The Divine Miss M, Jenna Davinci, Dahliah Rivers, Jay Andre, Elliot Barnicle, Gavina and Donna Trump.

Sunday 25 August, Missing Bar, Birmingham



Donna Trump



Amy LaQueefa

THE BURLESQUE BOMBSHELL CONTEST

After the success of its previous three sell-out shows, House of Allure is heading to Eden Bar this month for a charity fundraiser.

Join 12 fierce competitors as they battle it out for the Burlesque Bombshell crown. Expect stockings, nipple tassels and wigs to clash across the stage in a show that features everything from striptease to comedy, with all profits from the event going to Birmingham LGBT and National Ugly Mugs.

House of Allure's Locques La Roux hosts the event alongside four judges: Dominus Von Vexo, Lioness, Lily Lustre and Twiggy.

The competitors are: Manly Mannington, Peaches Munroe, Damaris, Pussy Willow, Grizzly, Rii Rii Lepour, Strawberry Thorn, Lolita Lash, Beatrixx Calidi, The Velvet Gay, Aurora L'Amore and Cosmic Crum.

Fri 30 August, Eden Bar, Birmingham.

Twiggy

Dominus Von Vexo

Miss Amber

Sat 17 August, Bar Diva, Dudley

Martha d'Arthur

Friday 2 August, Village Inn, Birmingham

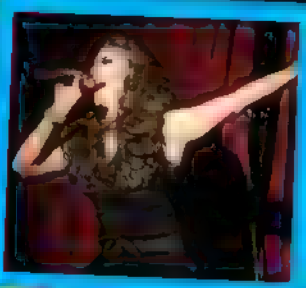
Lee Gilbert

Thurs 1 August, Eden Bar, Birmingham

Danny Beard

Britain's Got Talent star Danny Beard returns to Birmingham's award winning Eden Bar this month and then returns again! Danny's certainly become one of the city's favourite drag acts in recent years, so if you still haven't caught up with him, make sure you head down to Eden this month.

Saturday 3 and Thursday 15 August, Eden Bar, Birmingham



Topsie Redfern

West End star and Drag Idol UK 2013 runner-up Topsie Redfern will be bringing the house down when she visits the Village Inn this month

TILLY

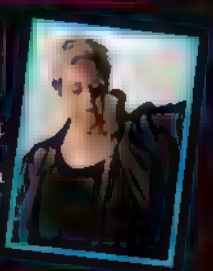
Award-winning drag queen Tilly has been in showbiz for over 30 years! She'll be entering the crowds at Bar Diva this month with some truly crazy comedy!

Saturday 3 August, Bar Diva, Dudley

JACQUII CANN

Stars In Their Eyes champion Jacquii Cann channels the sounds of Alison Moyet. Get ready for all the hits, from All Cried Out to Invisible.

Saturday 10 August, Bar Diva, Dudley

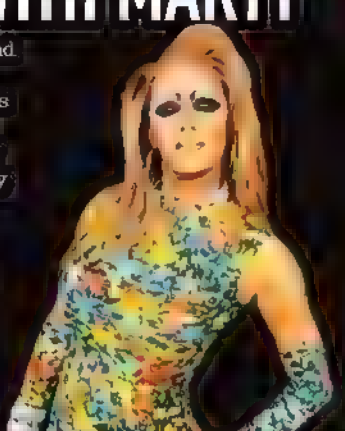


PARTY WITH MARTY

Birmingham drag legend Marty Smith is once again out and about this month, serving up her usual delightful dose of fun, games and naughty antics!

Friday 2 August, The Yard, Coventry

Friday 23 August Village Inn, Birmingham



Miss Thunderpussy

International drag superstar Miss Thunderpussy visits Leicester and Birmingham this month.

Be prepared for cheeky banter, dirty talkin' and blinding tunes!

Friday 2 August Dover Castle, Leicester

Fri 16 August, Village Inn, Birmingham

What's On

Brenda LaBeau

Monday 19 August
Havana Republic, Shrewsbury
Saturday 24 August,
Eden, Birmingham

SHANIA PAIN

Friday 16 August,
The Yard, Coventry

MARY MAC

Frequent visitor to Brum and [illegible] Eden Bar

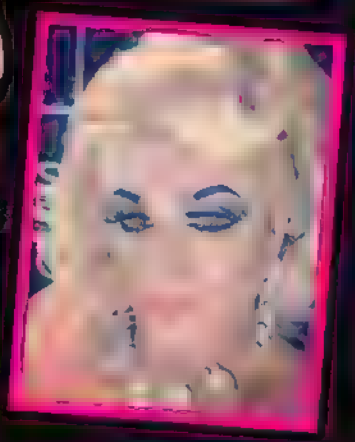
bring you an [illegible] songs and cheeky Celtic banter

Thursday 8 August,
Eden Bar, Birmingham

KY Kelly

Midlands-based KY Kelly may be one of the newer faces on the drag scene, but don't let that deceive you. Expect award-winning cabaret and plenty of laughs!

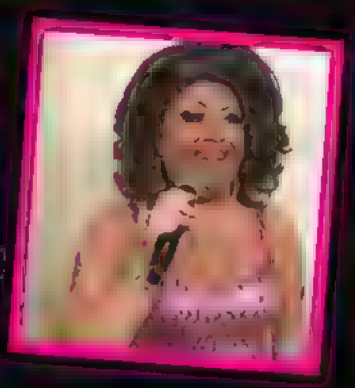
Friday 9 August,
The Yard, Coventry



Fannie Coil

There's yet another night of top cabaret to enjoy at Coventry gay venue The Yard this month - this time in the company of the fantastic Fannie Coil! If you haven't visited The Yard yet, why not pop along?

Friday 23 August,
The Yard, Coventry



OTHER EVENTS INCLUDE:

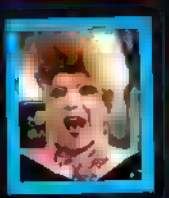
Sat 3 August
The Club Reunion Gossip, Stoke-on-Trent

Sun 4 August
Friends of Eden (Meeting re local development) Eden, birmingham

Fri 9 August
Mary Golds Dover Castle, Leicester

Ghoul School - The Alternative Drag Competition The Nightingale, Birmingham

Sat 10 August
Dr Beverly Ballcrusher The Red Lion, Walsall



Birmingham Fetish Men Eden Bar, Birmingham

Sun 11 August
Queer Life Drawing The Loft, Birmingham

Fri 16 August
Mids Bears Eden, Birmingham
XXL Birmingham The Core, Birmingham

Sun 18 August
Leather Social Eden, birmingham

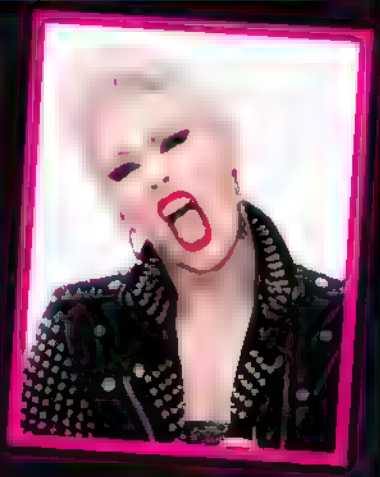
Tues 20 August
The Big Fat Gay Quiz Dover Castle, Leicester

Fri 23 August
Marsha Mallow Dover Castle, Leicester
Ghoul School - The Alternative Drag Competition The Nightingale, Birmingham

Glitoris Girls

Friday 30 August
The Yard, Coventry

Vicky Jackson as PINK!

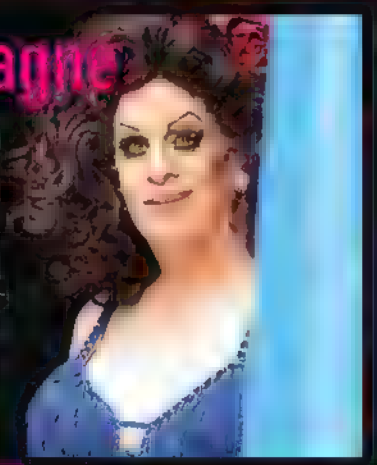


The Midlands' favourite PINK tribute returns to the region - so head on down and join the party with Vicky Jackson!

Sun 25 August, Village Inn, Birmingham

Mon 2 Sept, Havana Republic, Shrewsbury

Lola Lasagne



Another brilliant night is in prospect at Dudley's Bar Diva this month, as Lola Lasagne returns to the stage! Expect lots of laughter and fun, plus a good old-fashioned sing-song!

Saturday 31 August
Bar Diva, Dudley

Sat 24 August
Walsall Pride Cabaret Stage The Red Lion, Walsall
Club Scritches Eden, Birmingham

Sat 24/Sun 25 Aug
Summer Of Love Street Party The Yard, Coventry

Sun 25 Aug
Bank Holiday Party Night with Charlie Hides The Boston, Northampton

Sat 31 August

Trixie Lee, KY Kelly and Lola Lasagne The Dover Castle, Leicester
Java Duke, Heart and Soul, Marsha Mallow and Kara Van Park Rainbow & Dove, Leicester
Mother's Meeting presents The Cabaret Bar Jester, Birmingham

The Loft

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Quizzical with DJ Yogi

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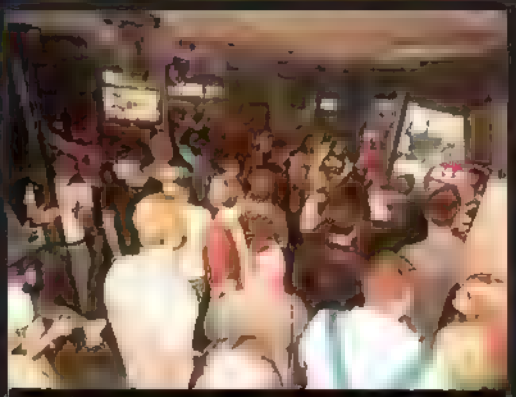
DJ Toni Lee & DJ Peni alternate weeks.



The Village, Birmingham

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theloftlounge.co.uk
/The-Loft-Lounge

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH
Queeny's Quiz

EVERY MONDAY
Monday Cocktail Club 2 for £10

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Wing It Wednesday - Kilo of wings and drink £10

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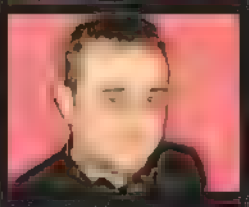
Tel: 0121 622 4256
missingbar.co.uk
/missingbar

EVERY MONDAY UNTIL 4AM
Ministry of Pound with DJ Mike Emery

EVERY TUESDAY
Karaoke with Gavina Vagina

EVERY THURSDAY 9PM
Thursdays with DJ Gavina - £1.50 bombs

EVERY FRIDAY 9PM
Hit Man and Her with DJ Mike Emery & Gavina Vagina



EVERY SATURDAY
Missing's House Party with DJ Matty, DJ Mike Emery and host Twiggy

EVERY SUNDAY 6.30pm & 10.30pm
Camp as f*ts with Amy LaQueefa and guest cabaret

NIGHTINGALE CLUB
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nightingaleclub.co.uk
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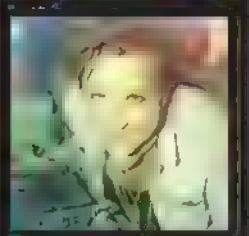
EVERY THURSDAY
Pounded! with £1 drinks all night

EVERY FRIDAY
Absolute Anthems with DJs Carey Hadley and Scott Hilton

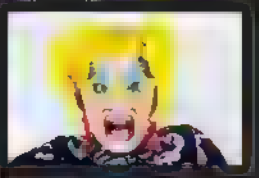


EVERY SATURDAY
Nightingale Saturdays with free entry until 12pm

THE VILLAGE INN
Hurst St, B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
villagebirmingham.co.uk
/villageinnbirmingham

EVERY MONDAY 9PM
Bingo with Queeny

EVERY TUESDAY
Pick n Mix with Ginny Lemon + Blanche



EVERY WEDNESDAY
Karaoke with Pork Pie

EVERY THURSDAY
Miss Marty + Miss Penny alternate weeks

EVERY SUNDAY
Yshee Black + special guests

PLUS THESE VENUES

BAR JESTER
Holloway Circus, B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 643 8344

BOLTZ CLUB
Lower Essex St, B5 6QP
Tel: 0121 666 6888

CLUB CHIC
28 Horsefair, B1 1DD
Tel: 0121 666 6806

THE CORE
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 2797

DEVILS KITCHEN
Kent St, B5 6NB

FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St, B5 6QL
Tel: 0121 622 1452

THE FOX
17 Lower Essex St, B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

GLAMOROUS
27-35 Hurst St, B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 5912

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

SPARTAN HEALTH CLUB
127 George Road, B23 7SH
Tel: 0121 382 3345

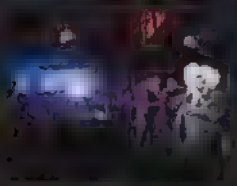
UNIT 2
78 Lower Essex St, B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 7070

[redacted]

COVENTRY

GLAMOROUS COVENTRY
88 Short St, CV1 2LX

THE YARD
11-12 Bull Yard, CV1 1LH
Tel: 02475 012 959
theyardcoventry.co.uk
/TheYardCoventry



EVERY TUESDAY
Jelly Cube quiz night

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Open mic night hosted by Tom Barnwell

EVERY THURSDAY 8PM
Free Shot Karaoke with Jupiter & Minerva

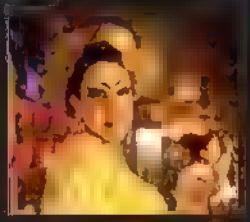
EVERY SATURDAY
DJ Richard Alexander with Jupiter and Minerva

EVERY SUNDAY
Bingo, Play Your Cards Right and Deal or No Deal with weekly cash prizes of over £100

DUDLEY

BAR DIVA
76 Lower Plaza Mall, King Street, DY2 8NZ
/BarDivaThePlaceToBe

EVERY MONDAY
Manic Monday with Miss Annie



EVERY THURSDAY
Get Pounded Karaoke with Miss Annie

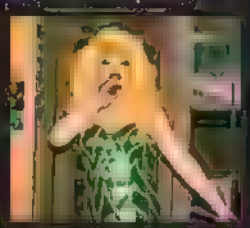
EVERY FRIDAY
Freaky Friday's with DJ Mikey

EVERY SATURDAY
Cabaret Saturdays with Miss Annie

EVERY SUNDAY
Ring & Ride with Me & Margaret

SHREWSBURY

HAVANA REPUBLIC
18-21 Abbey Foregate, SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
havanarepublic.co.uk
/HavanaRepublic



EVERY MONDAY
Fabulous Mondays with Miss Penny and guest cabaret every 1st and 3rd Monday

THE PEACH TREE
18-21 Abbey Foregate
Tel: 01743 355055
thepeachtree.co.uk
/ThePeachTreeRestaurant

STOKE-ON-TRENT

GOSSIP
5 Hope Street, ST1 5BT
Tel: 07399 664955

PINK
93 Stafford Street, ST1 1LS
Tel: 01782 272772

[redacted]

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

HEROES HEALTH CLUB
5 Lower High St, DY8 1TE
Tel: 0138 444 2030

TELFORD

THREE FURNACES
30 Bridgnorth Rd, Madeley, TF7 4JB, 01952 588521

WALSALL

THE LION
Birchills St, WS2 8NG
[redacted]

THE RED LION
Park St, WS1 1NW
[redacted]

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

THE GREENHOUSE
Willenhall Road, WS10 8JG
Tel: 0121 568 6126

WOLVERHAMPTON

GORGEOUS
School St, WV1 4LF
Tel: 01902 427247
/gorgeousbar

EVERY THURSDAY 1AM-6AM
#FreeEntryThursdays

EVERY FRIDAY 12AM-6AM
Fab Fridays

EVERY SATURDAY 12AM-6AM
The Breakfast Club

[redacted]

THE FLAG
50 Lowesmoor, WR1 2SG
Tel: 01905 780467

VELVET CLUB
Angel Row, WR1 3QN
[redacted]

DERBY

THE CROWN INN
40 Curzon St, DE1 1LL
Tel: 01332 381742

LEICESTER

BOXED BAR & MUSIC VENUE
(Bossa @ Boxed) Gay every first Sunday of the month
110 Granby St, LE1 1DL

DOVER CASTLE
34 Dover St, LE16PT
Tel: 0116 255 3052

HELSINKI
94 Rutland St, LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

RAINBOW & DOVE
185 Charles St, LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 7568

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

AMIGOS LEISURE
30 Bedford St South, LE1 3JR
[redacted]

CLUB 29
29 New Bond St, LE1 4RQ
Tel: 0116 262 7770

SPLASH SPA & LEISURE
61 Bedford St South, LE1 3JR
Tel: 0116 367 3932

NORTHAMPTON

THE BOSTON
College St, NN1 2QP
Tel: 01604 604404
/thebostonnorthampton

EVERY FRIDAY
Pink Pounder - £1 drinks with DJ Darren S

EVERY SATURDAY
The Big Weekend Party Night with DJ Cilla

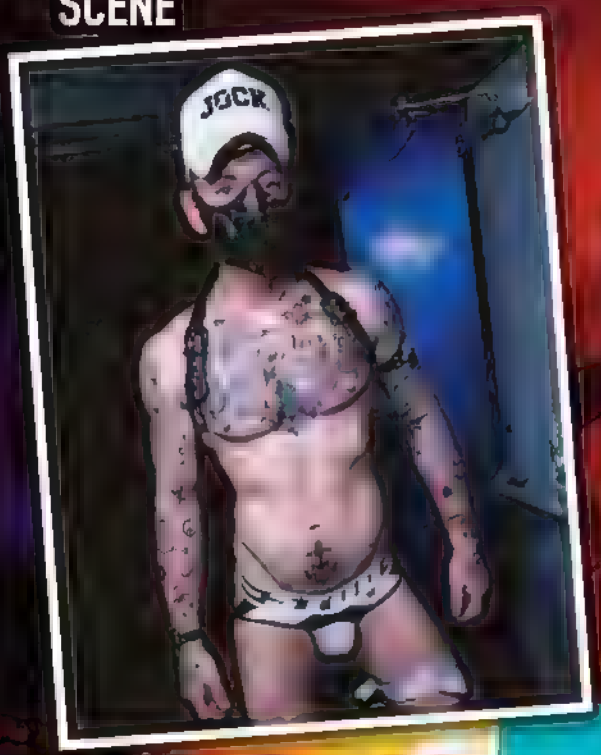
EVERY SUNDAY
Karaoke feat. Joeyoke - with free entry all night

[redacted]

WITH THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL LGBTQ MAGAZINE

[redacted]

Gorgeous, Wolverham



THE NIGHTINGALE

BIRMINGHAM

JOCK returned to the Midlands last month for a third time, with a White Edition Party at Birmingham's Nightingale Club.

Start your weekends early with Pounded every Thursday night – drinks are available from £1 and entry is free until 11pm.

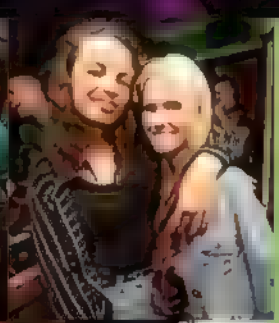
(*Check the back cover for more details)

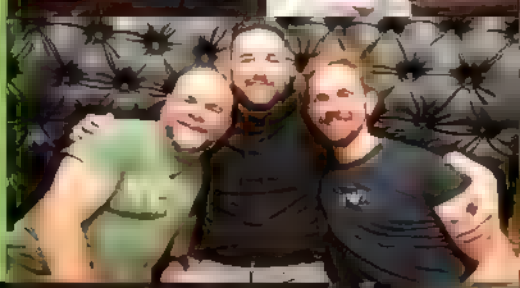
IT PROUD
LOVE

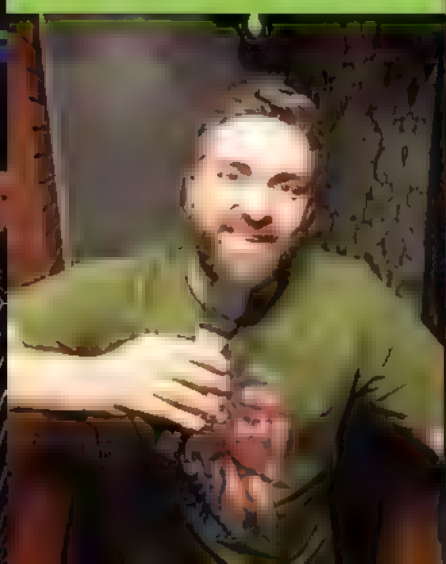
EDEN BAR

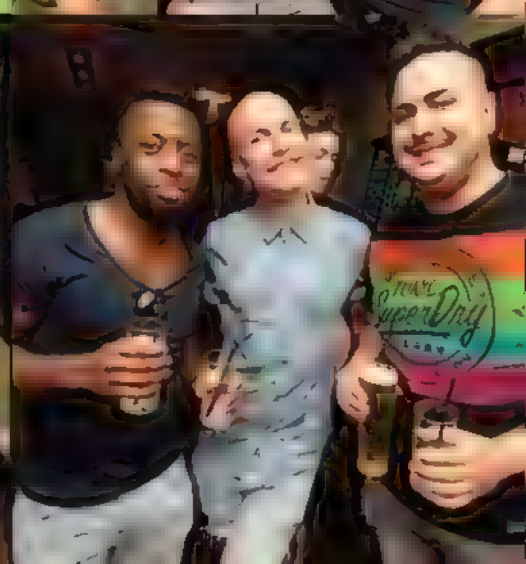
Whether you're having after work drinks with friends or wanting to watch some of the UK's best cabaret – Eden is the place to be!

This month, the venue has a whole host of events and performances for the Birmingham scene including the return of Birmingham Fetish Men, Mids Bears, Leather Social and Club Scritches! (see advert opposite for more details)





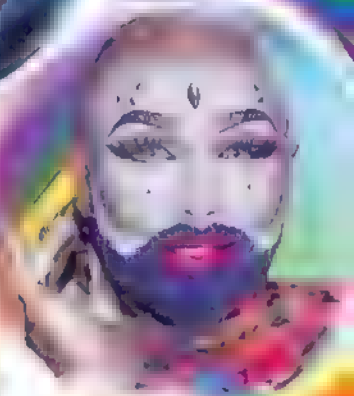




AUGUST

QUIZZICAL! The smartphone QUIZ
WEDNESDAYS 8PM
WITH DJ YOGI SpeedQuizzing

KARAOKE & DISCO
EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDA
WITH DJ NIKKI



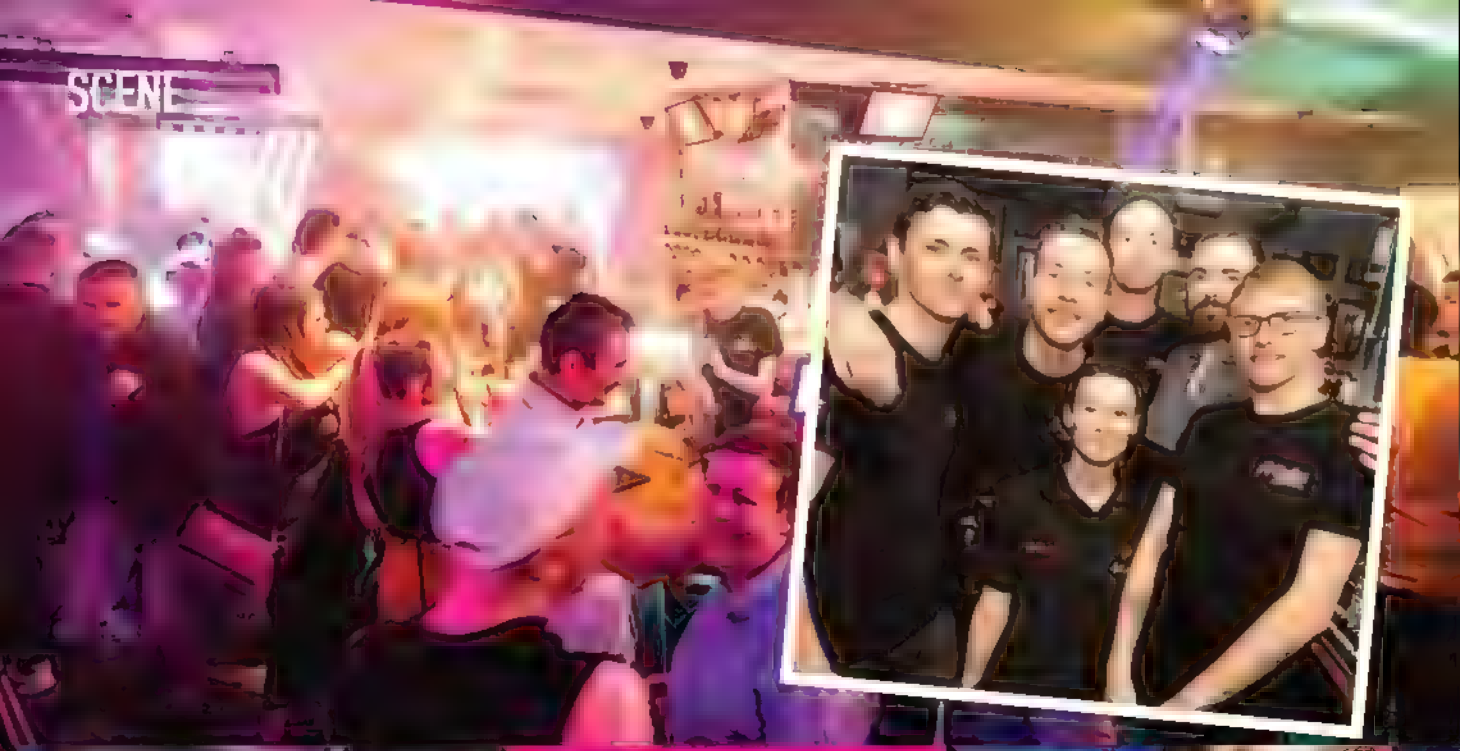
- THU 1ST — LEE GILBERT
- SAT 3RD — DANNY BEARD
- SUN 4TH — FRIENDS OF EDEN MEETING RE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
- SAT 10TH — BFM-XII
- THU 8TH — MARY MAC
- THU 15TH — DANNY BEARD
- FRI 16TH — MIDS BEARS
- SUN 18TH — LEATHER SOCIAL
- SAT 24TH — BRENDA LABEAU
- SAT 24TH — CLUB SCRITCHES PUP SOCIAL ON SAT AFTERNOON
- FRI 30TH — BURLESQUE IN THE MARQUEE
- SAT 31ST — MARY MAC

DJ TONI LEE
SAT 3RD SAT 10TH
SAT 17TH

DJ PONI
SAT 24TH
SAT 31ST

eden

Open from 2pm Mon-Fri 2pm Sat & Sun | 116 Sherlock St. Birmingham, B5 6NB | 0121 622 1953 | www.TheEdenBar.co.uk



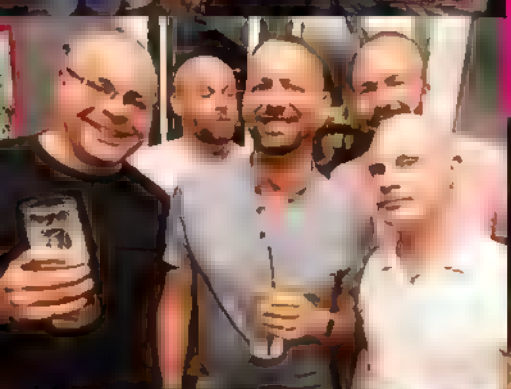
MISSING

BIRMINGHAM

This month, Missing will be holding a spectacular charity Drag Night, raising money for Positive West Midlands.

Taking place on Sunday 25 August, the event will feature non-stop cabaret from Donna Trump, Divine Miss M, Twiggy and Gavina, to name just a few!

(see advert opposite for more details)



DRAG NIGHT

PROUDLY RAISING MONEY FOR POSITIVE WEST MIDLANDS

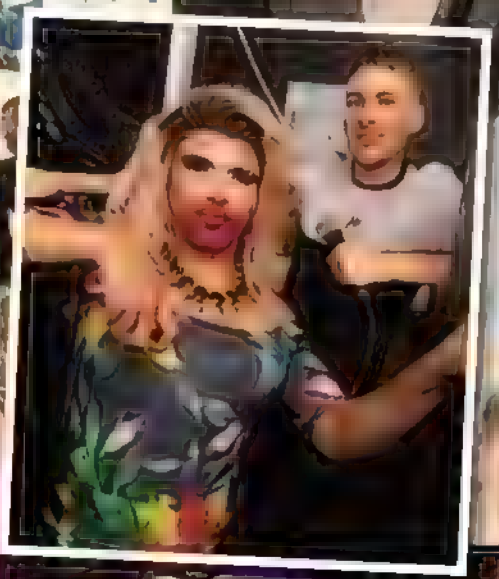
PERFORMANCES FROM:-

DONNA TRUMP . DIVINE MISS M . TWIGGY . GAVINA .AMY LAQUEEFA
JENNA DAVINCI . JAY ANDRE .ELLIOTT BARNICLE
DAHLIAH RIVERS AND MORE!

NON STOP CABARET!

SUNDAY 25TH AUGUST . FROM 8PM

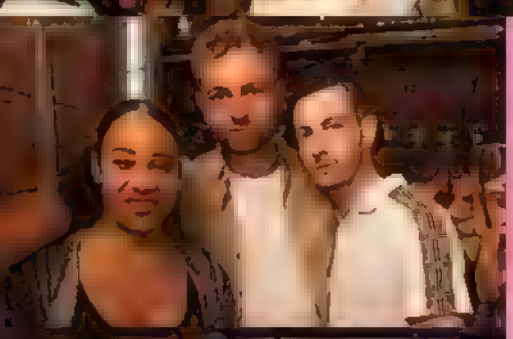
Missing

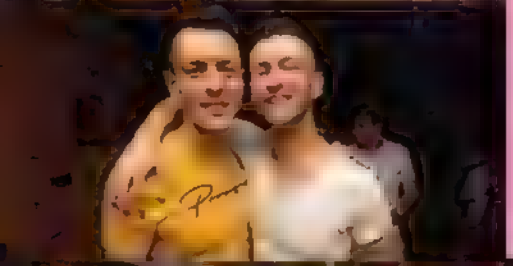


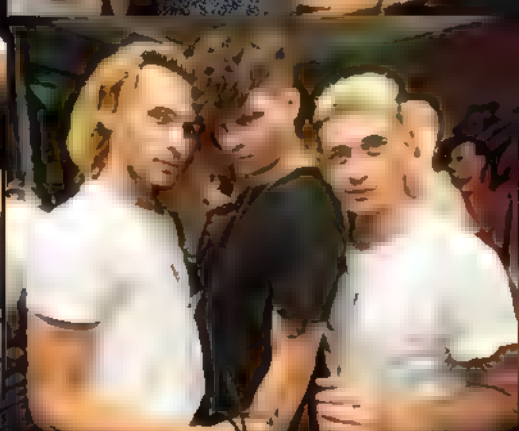
VILLAGE INN

The Village Inn is guaranteed to provide a fab evening out – open seven nights a week, there really is something for everyone...

This month Martha D'Arthur and Topsie Redfern are among the fantastic acts bringing some unmissable magic to the cabaret stage, while the venue's Bank Holiday Special sees Vicky Jackson performing as Pink.
(see advert opposite for details).







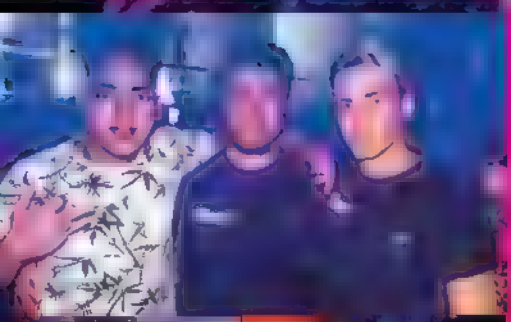
VICKY JACKSON
BANK HOLIDAY SPECIAL // SUN 25TH AUG
VILLAGE INN
BIRMINGHAM

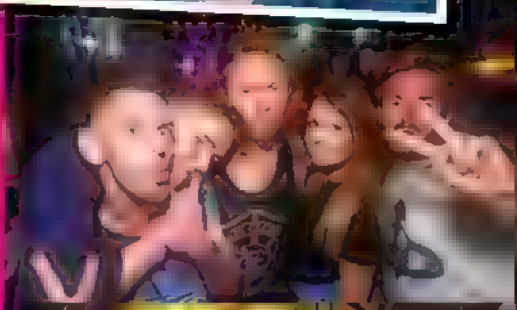
THE BOSTON
NORTHAMPTON

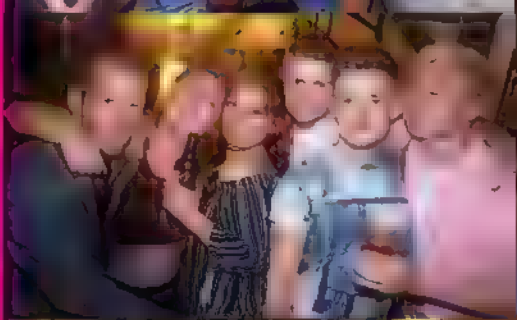
Northampton's recently refurbished The Boston is the place to be this summer. Now serving premium cocktails every day, cool down in their large beer garden from 2pm daily.

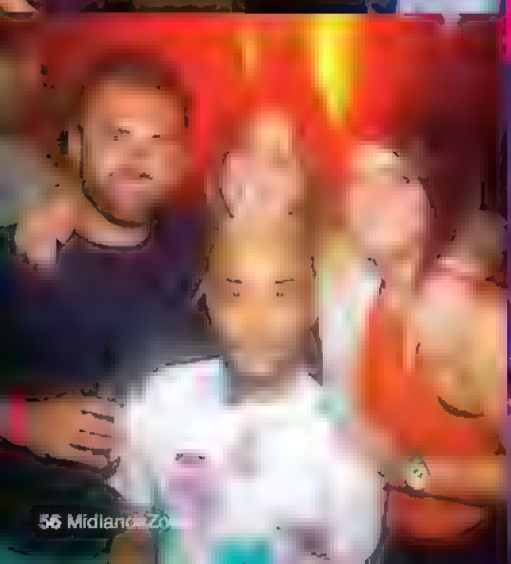
This month Charlie Hides with be performing for the venue's Bank Holiday Party Night on Sunday 25 August. With free entry before 11pm and open until 6am – who can resist?

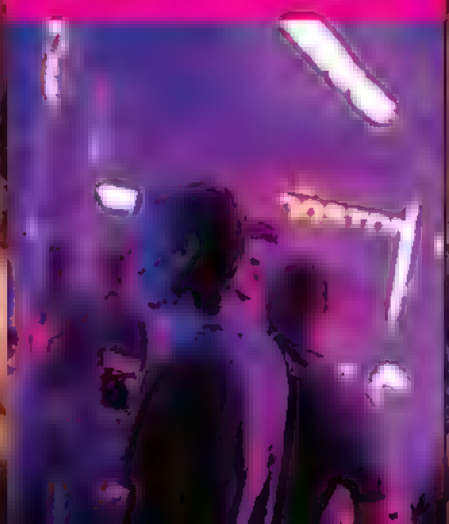
(see advert opposite for more details)











THE BOSTON
NORTHAMPTON

NOW SERVING PREMIUM
COCKTAILS EVERY DAY FROM 2PM

//// EVERY FRI NIGHT
PINK POUNDER (£1 DRINKS)

Feat. DJ DARREN S
Playing The Best Pop / Chart / Dance / R&B

MOST DRINKS ONLY £1.00 EACH
£9 ENTRY | 10PM - 4:30AM

//// EVERY SAT NIGHT
THE BIG WEEKEND PARTY NIGHT

Feat. DJ CILLA
Dance / House / R&B / Party!

FREE ENTRY b4 11PM, £3 ENTRY b4 1AM
£5 ENTRY AFTER 1AM
10PM - 6AM

//// EVERY SUN NIGHT
KARAOKE

Feat. JOEYOKE
1000'S OF SONGS AVAILABLE

FREE ENTRY ALL NIGHT
2 X COCKTAILS 4 £8.50
10PM - 2AM

SUN 25th AUG

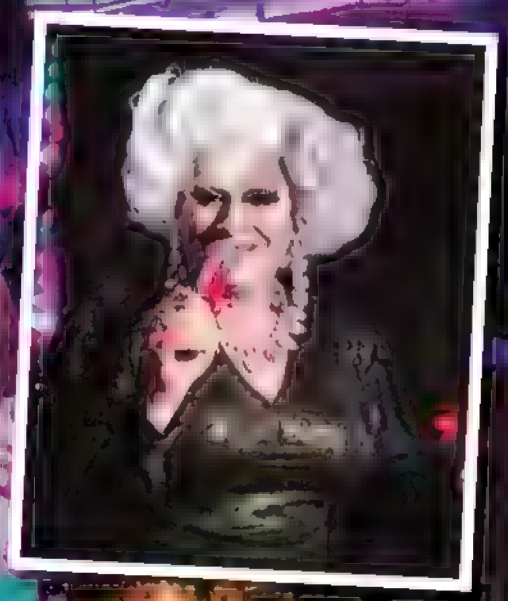
OPEN UNTIL 6AM

FREE ENTRY B4 11PM

BANK HOLIDAY PARTY NIGHT

'HAPPY HOUR' (£2.50) DRINKS FROM 2PM-10PM!
CABARET FROM ***'CHARLIE HIDES' (MIDNIGHT)***
KARAOKE WITH JOEYOKE **(8PM)** + MUSIC FROM **DJ CILLA**

THE BOSTON . COLLEGE ST . NORTHAMPTON . NN1 2QP . 01604 604404
FACEBOOK.COM/THEBOSTONNORTHAMPTON

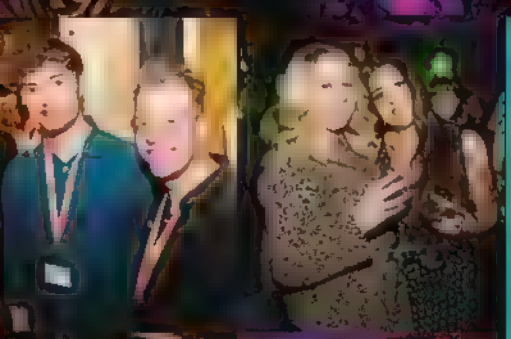


THE YARD

COVENTRY

The Yard had another busy month in July, with guest performers including the wonderful Mary Golds!

August is set to be equally action-packed, as the likes of Miss Marty, KY Kelly, Shania Pain, Fannie Coil and the Glitoris Girls entertain the Coventry crowds. The venue will also be holding a Summer Of Love street party over the bank holiday weekend
We can't wait!
(see advert opposite for more details)



August @ THE YARD

TUESDAY - QUIZ NIGHT
WEDNESDAY - OPEN MIC NIGHT
THURSDAY - FREE SHOT KARAOKE
SATURDAY - DJ SIMON BAKER
SUNDAY - BINGO 'N SH*T

MISS MARTY
FRIDAY 2 AUG

KY KELLY
FRIDAY 9 AUG

SHANIA PAIN
FRIDAY 16 AUG

FANNIE COIL
FRIDAY 23 AUG

GLITORIS GIRLS
FRIDAY 30 AUG

SUMMER OF LOVE STREET PARTY

24-25 AUGUST

FREE EVENT

LINEUP COMING SOON!

the yard

The Yard 11-12 Bull Yard, Coventry, CV1 1LH
www.theyardcoventry.co.uk 024 7501 2959

BAR DIVA

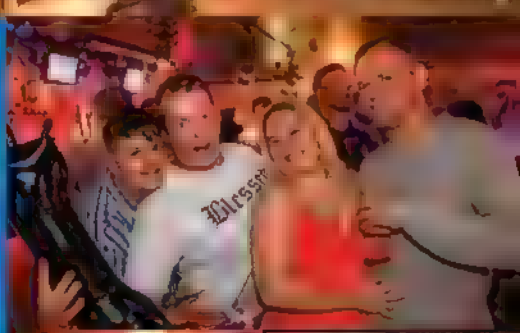
DUDLEY

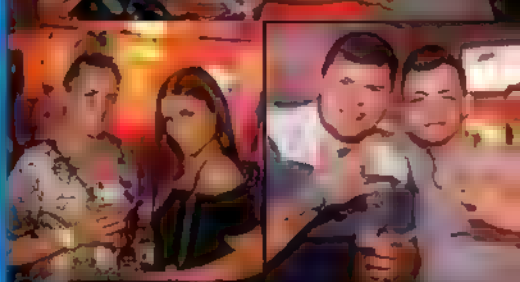
The team at Dudley's Bar Diva always know how to put on a show! July saw Miss Marty take to the stage and wow the crowds.

The wonderful Tilly, Jacqui Cann, Miss Amber and Lola Lasagne all feature in this month's cabaret line-up.

Plus, Bar Diva's popular foam party will be making a welcome return on Saturday 24 August.

See advert opposite for more details!





BAR DIVA!

DUDLEY'S LGBT + CABARET VENUE

3 AUG
TILLY

10 AUG
ALISON MOYET TRIBUTE
JACQUII CANN

17 AUG
FUNNY GIRLS
MISS AMBER

31 AUG
LOLA LASAGNE

THURSDAYS — THURSTY THURSDAYS
MISS ANNIE

FRIDAYS — FREAKY FRIDAYS

SATURDAYS — CABARET SATURDAYS

SUNDAYS — SIZZLING SUNDAYS

MONDAYS — KARAOKE COMPETITION

FOAM party
24 AUG

BAR DIVA — ZONE

Dudley

HAVANA REPUBLIC

SHREWSBURY

Start the week right by getting along to Havana Republic's Fabulous [illegible] fun and frolics.

The biggest gay Monday night out in the [illegible] Brenda LaBeau.

(See advert opposite for more details)

HAVANA ★ REPUBLIC

PRESENTS

Miss Penny's

FABULOUS MONDAYS!

THE BIGGEST GAY MONDAY NIGHT OUT IN THE MIDLANDS

Special guest cabaret nights

MON 5 AUG
THE VIVIENNE

MON 17 AUG
BRENDA LABEAU

MON 2 SEPT
VICKY JACKSON AS PINK

FREE ENTRY B4 12!

OPEN UNTIL 4AM!

CHEAP AS DRINKS

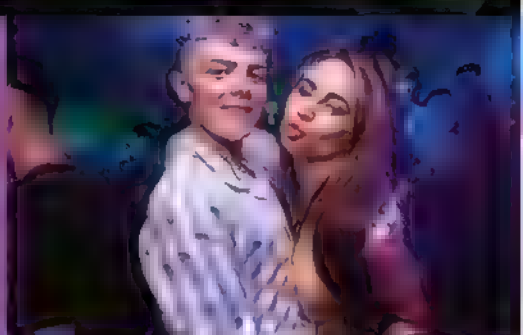
18 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SY2 6AE 01743 271821

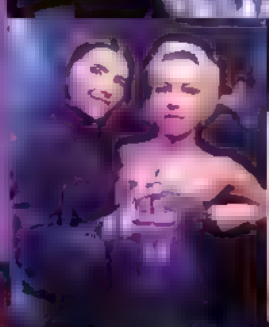
GORGEOUS

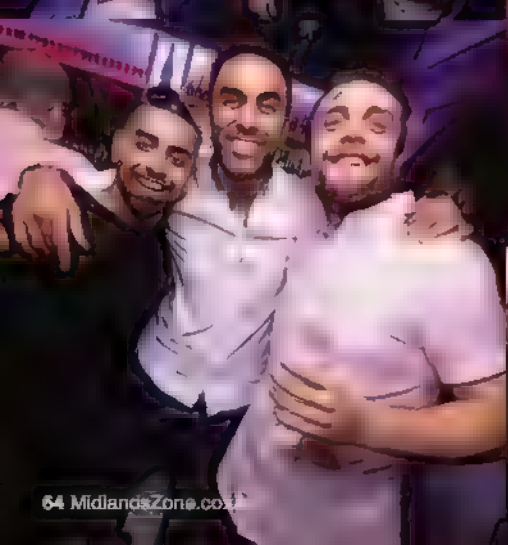
WOLVERHAMPTON

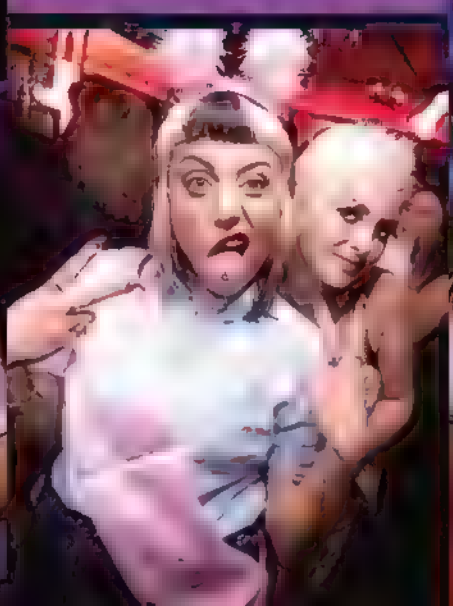
Gorgeous' Breakfast Club on Saturdays is one of Wolverhampton's busiest club nights. And with free entry and 'buy one get one free' drinks until 1am, that's hardly surprising!

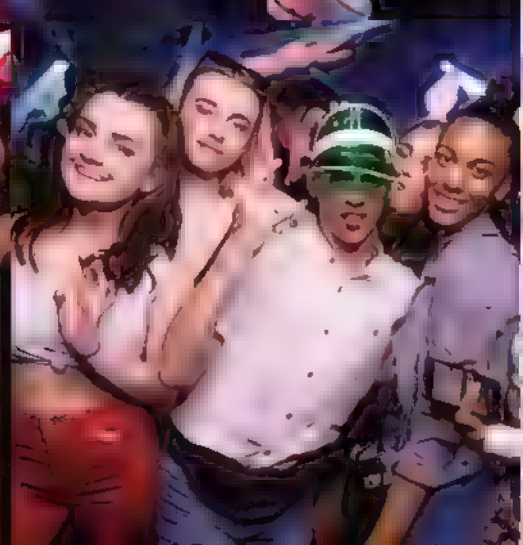
The club also has Free Entry Thursdays until 4am and Fab Fridays, with DJ James Lavell playing dance classics, house and R'n'B.

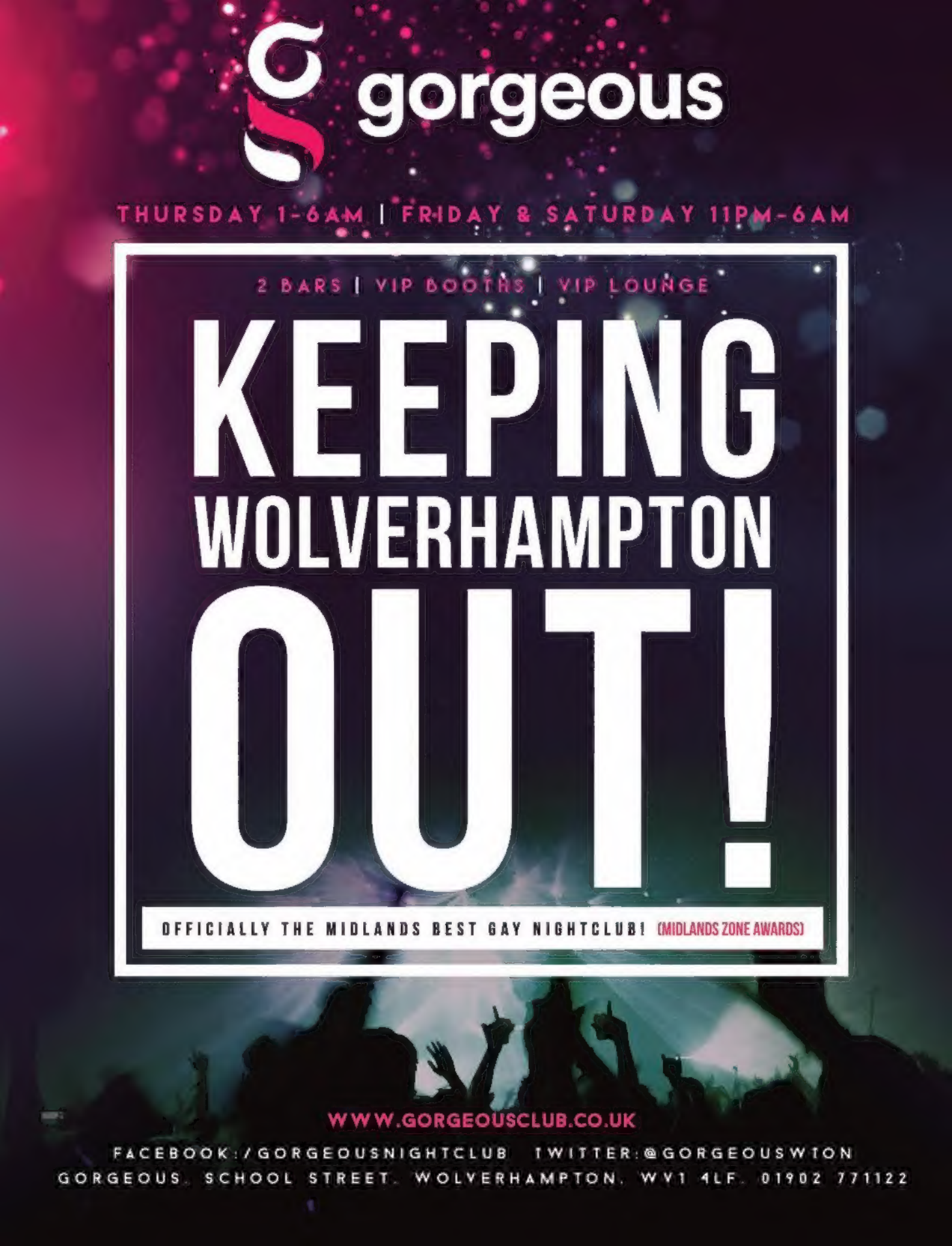








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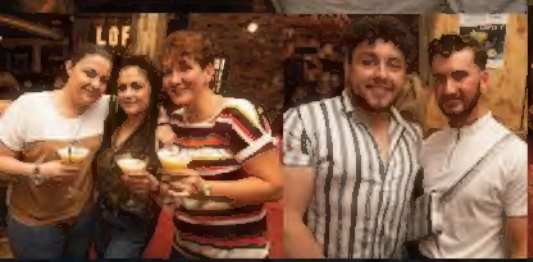

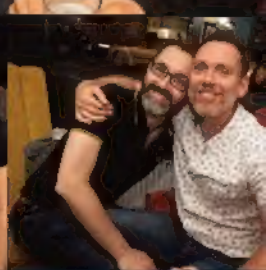

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